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Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 89
MONDAY MAY 7, 2018
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Delta Air Lines staff, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Marianas Visitors Authority wave goodbye as Delta's Boeing 757 prepares for takeoff.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Delta bids farewell

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's only direct airline service to Narita, Japan and also provides connecting service to the U.S. mainland officially took its final flight yesterday, bidding farewell to the islands.

Delta Air Lines, the CNMI's only direct flight to Japan, officially operated its last flight between Saipan and Japan yesterday and it was a tear-jerking scene.

Delta has served the CNMI for 29 years and decided back in February to pull out from its partnership with Saipan due to low passenger rates.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority executive director Christ Concepcion, MVA did everything they could to keep the route open but Delta's pullout

See DELTA on Page 4

CHCC to United: Reconsider flight cuts

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña is hoping that United Airlines would reconsider its decision to reduce its Saipan-Guam daily flights for the sake of CNMI patients.

In a letter to United Airlines CEO Oscar Muñoz and president Scott Kirby, Muña detailed the challenges faced by hospital and medical refer-

See CHCC on Page 4

Rejected CW permits not eligible for 240-day stay

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services clarified over the weekend that rejected CW permits are not eligible for the 240-day authorized stay.

In an email exchange with *Saipan Tribune*, a USCIS representative clarified that rejected CW permits for fiscal year 2019 are not eligible for the 240-day authorized stay.

The statement said that only per-

See CW on Page 4

Another drowning case in less than a month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 61-year-old woman reportedly drowned after she was stuck under a rock when a big wave hit her at the Grotto, a popular diving spot in Marpi, yesterday afternoon.

» **Woman, 61, stuck under a rock at Grotto**

The victim, identified as Xhaoxia Yang, a Chinese tourist, was pronounced dead by Dr. Martin Rohringer at the Commonwealth Health Center at 3:55pm, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting spokesperson

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A Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services emergency medical technician descends the stairs at Grotto in Marpi to respond to a drowning incident involving a 61-year-old female tourist yesterday afternoon. DFEMS

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LOCAL
The 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas festival pays tribute to *Cinco de Mayo.*

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NATION
The number of homes destroyed by lava from the Kilauea volcano climbs to five

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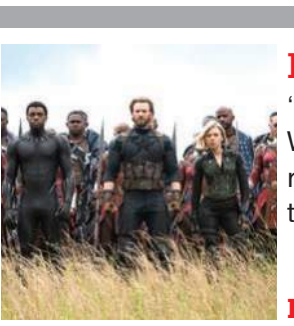

LIFE & STYLE
"Avengers: Infinity War" is poised to set a record for fastest film to rake in $1 billion.

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Local

Ex-DFW biologist files pregnancy discrimination suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former biologist of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife is suing DLNR and DFW officials in federal court for allegedly discriminating against her due to her pregnancy.

Dr. Anne M. Orlando is suing DFW, DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente, DFW director Manuel Pangelinan, and former DFW acting director Mike Tenorio, claiming violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: discrimination, retaliation, and breach of contract.

Orlando, through counsel Rene C. Holmes, wants to be paid her earned and unpaid salary, leave time, repatriation costs, damages for medical fees, lost or damaged household goods, attorney's fees, and court costs.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from the defendants.

DFW hired Orlando on Feb. 9, 2015 as a wildlife biologist supervisor. DFW renewed her contract for Oct. 1, 2016, through Sept. 30, 2017.

According to Holmes in the complaint filed in court last Friday, Orlando told Pangelinan in February 2016 that she was pregnant, after which Pangelinan allegedly immediately removed Orlando from fieldwork. Orlando objected to this.

In May 2016, Holmes said, Orlando informed Pangelinan that in August 2016 she had to go to California because of her pregnancy. Orlando asked for accommodation to do her work while in California, but Pangelinan allegedly denied the request.

In July 2016, Pangelinan allegedly approved Orlando to work limited hours during her time in California.

On Aug. 2, 2016, Orlando flew to California to be near the hospital. She submitted time sheets and leave forms to defendants.

Holmes said defendants failed to pay Orlando in a timely manner in some instances and failed to pay her altogether in others.

Orlando repeatedly inquired about her pay, but they allegedly failed to respond.

The biologist gave birth on Sept. 28, 2016.

Holmes said the defendants failed to pay all salary or wages, annual leave, sick leave, donated sick leave, advance leave, and holidays and maternity leave owed her.

She repeatedly urged defendants to pay her what she was owed in order to have funds available to purchase her return ticket to Saipan.

On Nov. 13, 2016, Orlando emailed Pangelinan and another DFW staff that she needed to extend her sick leave because she needed to have surgery.

Defendants allegedly continued to fail to communicate with Orlando.

On Nov. 23, 2016, Orlando underwent surgery in California. On Jan. 10, 2017, she underwent another surgery.

As of January 2017, Holmes said, defendants owed Orlando pay for hours worked, sick leave, annual leave, donated sick leave, advance leave, paid holidays, maternity leave and five months of housing allowance.

On Jan. 30, 2017, Orlando received payments for her maternity leave and one month's housing allowance.

Holmes said Orlando was not aware that defendants stopped paying the premiums for her health insurance in January 2017.

Holmes said due to defendants' failure to pay health insurance premiums, Orlando's medical expenses were not covered by health insurance.

The lawyer said Orlando had told defendants about a planned surgery for January 2017, the same month they stopped paying her health insurance.

On April 18, 2017, Orlando filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In April 2017, Pangelinan was allegedly removed from her position at DFW and Tenorio was installed as acting director of DFW.

In April 2017, Holmes said, Orlando provided information about Pangelinan's discriminatory practices to the person within the CNMI government investigating Pangelinan.

Holmes said the defendants constructively terminated Orlando by failing to pay her salary, wages and/or leave time and benefits by discriminating against her based upon her pregnancy.

Orlando resigned on May 23, 2017.

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MAY 12, 2018
International Nurses Day
Seafood Night Buffet | 1800-2100
All Nurses: Show us your Work ID
and get 20% off!

Tourism Month Instagram contest launched

In celebration of May Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting residents of the Marianas to show how much they love the islands by posting their favorite photos on Instagram.

"We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth, and Instagram is a tremendous way to show off our home to the world," said MVA Community Projects assistant and Tourism Month lead coordinator Demalynn Pagarao. "For all those on Instagram, we hope you will join us in promoting the Marianas by tagging your photos in May and every month of the year!"

The 2018 Tourism Month Instagram Contest is open to residents of the Marianas ages 13 and older. To enter, the contestant must: 1) follow the MVA's official Instagram account @themarianas, 2) post a photo on Instagram showing their representation of "My Marianas"; 3) include all three hashtags: #mymarianas, #themarianas and #tourismmonth2018; 4) tag the MVA @themarianas in the post; and 5) set their profile to public.

One prize will be awarded each week to one participant for the post that meets all the requirements stated above, including the required hashtags, and that receives the most "likes" on Instagram for that week. The contest ends on May 31, 2018.

For complete contest rules, visit www.mymarianas.com/mva.blog/. ***(PR)***

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OAG: CHCC, KCHC both at fault

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has concluded that both the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Kagman Community Health Center are at fault in their dispute even as the Department of Public Lands has started to look into revocating the grant of public domain to the corporation to allow the Kagman clinic to continue operation.

In a lengthy Health and Welfare Committee meeting of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last Friday, both CHCC and KCHC responded to questions relating to the removal of the Kagman clinic from its facility on Lemmai Road, Kagman II, which is public land.

According to an OAG opinion, KCHC has "jeopardized its ability to remain at its current facility" because CHCC could not transfer the property to KCHC.

Since KCHC was awarded the Federally Qualified Health Clinic Grant through grantor Health Resources and Service Administration, KCHC also became independent from CHCC. However, KCHC was operating in a facility that is titled to CHCC, allowing the latter to have the authority to change the locks and alarm code at the Kagman facility and forcing the KCHC to operate at the social hall of Santa Soledad Parish.

» DPL to process change in CHCC grant of public domain

According to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, KCHC staff were reportedly "deleting data" and "shredding documents," forcing CHCC to change its locks and alarm codes.

"This could probably be answered by creative use of designations or by leasing the property to KCHC directly," said the OAG. "KCHC's demand for the transfer of this property is curious because the Notice of Funding Opportunity plainly states that property does not automatically transfer, if it transfers at all, to a new grantee."

In an interview with acting DPL secretary Richard Villagomez, he confirmed that DPL would be looking into "designating the property" to KCHC. He declined to disclose further details as he added it was still up for investigation. Villagomez also did not set a timeline.

Vice speaker Rep. Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), who was also the committee chair, said in an interview after the oversight hearing that the meeting yielded "a good conclusion."

"It's in the hands of DPL now, since CHCC is not contesting to revoking the [grant of public domain] at Kagman, so that is a good thing that shows a positive result," said Maratita. She added that it was understood that CHCC "needed to follow set rules and regulations" pertaining to the grant of public domain to avoid future liability issues with CHCC.

Senate Health and Welfare Committee chair Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), who attended the oversight meeting as a member of the audience, said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune* that she "strongly recommends" CHCC execute a memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding with KCHC to allow them to continue their operations in their facility.

Santos also suggests that CHCC render its "unconditional assistance and support" to KCHC regarding pharmaceutical support; supplies; services; auxiliary staffing; and more that is vital to the operation of KCHC until the end of the clinic's transition period set in the HRSA grant, which is 78 days as of publication.

"If Rota Health Center is to follow the model or piggyback under KCHC's license, the former must ensure there is an open dialogue and complete transparency with CHCC as to its application, process, and all other pertinent information," she added.

CHCC

From Page 1

ral patients in getting needed off-island medical attention.

United plans to cut its number of flights from Guam to Saipan from more than four daily to once daily and, instead of a code-share agreement with United Express, will fly a jet that will ply both territories once a day. United earlier said that it would be ending its "relationship with Cape Air service in Micronesia," including its five-time daily Guam-Saipan service, as well as the Rota-Guam and Rota-Saipan service, effective May 31, 2018.

Muña said patients needing medical care are faced with the challenge of the CNMI's geographical location. "One of the most significant burdens is addressing emergency medical problems and identifying appropriate treatment in a geographically large, but sparsely populate region of the Pacific Ocean."

The CNMI is located 137 miles north of Guam, one of three U.S. territories in the Pacific, and 2,900 miles east of the Philippines. It is also 3,700 miles west of the State of Hawaii, with Honolulu being the nearest U.S. tertiary medical center for referral.

Muña said United's announcement of having one daily flight from Saipan to Guam would create problems for CNMI patients. "[It] significantly impedes the CNMI from getting our patients to emergency specialty care they need."

She added that the one daily flight would also affect critically ill newborns and children that require special medical care as most of them doesn't have passports required to travel to Rady's Children's Hospital in San Diego, California via Japan.

Rady's is the only children's hospital in the West Coast and in the U.S. mainland that accepts the CNMI's Medicaid reimbursements.

"It takes more than two weeks to expedite a passport in the CNMI. Emergency treatment for a newborn requires a U.S. domestic flight path to care," said Muña, who added that the hospital's understaffed medical personnel are also affected since they would often travel with their young patients.

Laboratory services—inbound blood shipments and supplies, and outbound specimens—would also be delayed according to Muña.

"I am not privy to the inner workings of United Airlines' business models or decision-making processes, but I urge you to consider the impact the decision to reduce flights from Saipan to Guam will have on the lives and safety of CNMI residents, especially those newborns and children who have no alternative," ended Muña.

DELTA

From Page 1

soon became inevitable.

Yesterday, while Delta staff boarded passengers of the final Saipan to Narita flight, a small farewell party was put together, with Delta's passengers being provided free snacks and Delta giveaways. Delta even provided a free photo booth.

Delta staff, especially those who have been with Delta for many years, were moved to tears as they said their goodbyes to one another and as they watched the final flight depart.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority also paid its respects with a water salute as the Boeing 757 jet proceeded to take off.

According to CPA deputy director Edward Mendiola, it was sad to see Delta leave, but he remains hopeful that Delta will reconsider and return in the future.

Concepcion, who is also a former Delta employee, said that it was bittersweet to see the flight leave for good.

"Delta has been the CNMI's strongest partner in the Japan market for the last 29 years and so it's sad to bid them farewell today as they operate their last flight from Saipan, but there are opportunities for the Japan market to continue to grow… we're excited for the future but we're sad to see a brand as good as Delta that has been here for the last 29 years leave the CNMI," he said.

According to a previous interview with Concepcion, he said the CNMI should remain optimistic and expect air service from Japan to come this August and plans have already been discussed for the near future that could possibly double fights from Japan to Saipan.

"We have about 30 flights coming in for the month… we are still working on additional flights to fill the void between now and then and between then and when the new airlines that's planning to fly the CNMI makes a formal launch," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also announced this weekend that he met with Skymark Airlines, Japan's third largest carrier headquartered at the Haneda Airport in Tokyo, to discuss the launch of direct flight services from Japan to Saipan for the upcoming winter schedule.

"I met with Skymark Airlines executives a couple months ago to discuss the launch of direct flights from Japan to Saipan later this year. I am pleased to say that Skymark has begun evaluating the launch of direct flights, targeting a launch during the upcoming winter schedule. They have met with the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other government agencies who have all offered their full support to Skymark. A more formal announcement will be made as soon as their evaluation process and official decision is complete," Torres said.

Concepcion said the CNMI is currently working to secure flights between Saipan and Japan because the Japan market remains a pillar in the tourism industry of the CNMI.

DROWNING

From Page 1

Linus Mizutani.

Mizutani said that DFEMS received a call from the Department of Public Safety's 911 about a drowning incident at Grotto at 2:09pm.

DFEMS emergency medical technicians from Garapan Fire Station responded and arrived at the scene at 2:20pm.

Mizutani said EMTs came upon the victim who had been stuck under a rock by the bottom end of the steps of Grotto.

EMTs found the victim with no pulse, not breathing, and had obvious signs of lividity.

Mizutani said that, according to bystanders, the victim had attempted to cross the water to get to the big rock, but a big wave hit her. Due to rough waters and strong current, the victim was swept under a rock.

DFEMS personnel recovered the victim and transported her body to CHC's emergency room, where Rohringer pronounced her dead.

The victim was with some companions, including a tour guide. She had no intent to dive as she had no diving gear, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

DPS has yet to release more information of the incident as of press time last night.

It was the second drowning incident on Saipan in less than a month.

Last April 17, a 53-year-old Japanese male reportedly drowned while diving at Lau Lau Bay.

Last March 9, Tian Tao, a 32-year-old Chinese male tourist drowned while swimming, also at Lau Lau Bay.

Last Feb. 23, a 25-year-old Korean male tourist who was swimming with three companions was swept by a wave at Forbidden Island in Kagman. Search and rescue team backed by a Navy helicopter failed to locate the body.

Last Jan. 13, a Korean tourist drowned while her husband was swept away by waves and could not be found at Forbidden Island.

CW

From Page 1

mits that are still awaiting adjudication are eligible for the 240-day period.

"If a petition is rejected, it is not pending with USCIS, thus the beneficiaries of the petition cannot lawfully continue to work in the CNMI," the statement said.

The statement added that, while one may not apply for the 240-day additional employment authorization period, it begins on the date the eligible employee's CW-1 status expires.

"The [authorized stay] period continues until USCIS issues a decision on the petition or until 240 days after the CW-1 status expires, whichever comes first," the representative stated, adding that it was required that the terms and conditions of the employment must remain the same as those previously approved.

The 240-day authorized stay period does not extend the CW-1 worker's nonimmigrant status but only "allows the employee to continue working with the same employer."

"It does not give nonimmigrant status or lawful presence that allows an employee to avoid accruing unlawful presence under…the Immigration and Nationality Act."

For fiscal year 2019 alone, USCIs set the CW cap at a measly 4,999. Previous statements from the agency said that the large cut in CW slots were in anticipation of the sunset provision set by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, the same law that set up the CNMI Transition Period that encompasses the CW-1 program as well as the Investor E-2C program.

According to the CNRA, the CNMI Transition Period is slated to end this December 2019, effectively ending the programs along with it.

A previous statement from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan had described the large cut to the CW slots for fiscal year 2019 as "unnecessary" and "harmful to the Marianas."

In a presentation to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Tuesday, Sablan announced that he expects the U.S. House of Representatives to act this week on S. 2325, a bill by U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) that effectively extends the transition period to 2029.

S.2325 breezed through the U.S. Senate unanimously but it came after USCIS set the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 at a measly 4,999.

Kim-Tenorio leads 2nd Annual Walk for Recovery

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio poses for a group photo with CNMI Drug Court team, Drug Court participants, family members, and community members at the start of the second Annual Walk for Recovery at the Minachom Atdao pavilion in Susupe Friday afternoon. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio and Drug Court manager Ta-Ann Kabua-Demapan led the 2nd Annual Walk for Recovery along Beach Road last Friday afternoon as part of activities lined up for CNMI Drug Court Month.

In a short ceremony before the walk, Kabua-Demapan said the community is now seeing the positive effects of what the CNMI Drug Court has done less than two years after it was started.

Cadets from the departments of Public Safety and of Corrections and CNMI Court marshals joined others at the walk—people in recovery from drug addiction, Drug Court team, family members, and community members. The walk started from the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe toward Quartermaster, and back to the Minachom Atdao.

Kim-Tenorio said the purpose of the Walk For Recovery is to bring together people who are in recovery and those who are supporting them.

Kim-Tenorio said the event is also for community partners and members who are either interested in learning about recovery or who believe in recovery and want to support the Drug Court program.

"In the walk, we're able to reflect and speak with other folks in recovery or family members," she said. "Just look at beautiful views and think about how recovery is helping our family, how drug addiction has destroyed our family, and how we can move forward from there."

The judge said she is very happy with the outcome of the event, which is the road to recovery for the participants of the Drug Court program.

Kim-Tenorio said it is more than just a walk; it is also a walk for recovery.

For many Drug Court participants, they were using illegal drugs, committing crimes, and being active with the drug use just weeks or months ago. "But today they are here, they are sober, they are working on their sobriety. So it is a whole new life. It is something that they have not done in a long time or may be ever. So it is something very positive and helps them toward their recovery."

Kim-Tenorio, who handles the CNMI Drug Court, recently disclosed that the program is only one year and four months old, but it is growing as it currently has 44 participants, a couple more are joining, and about 17 are on the waiting list.

Two graduated from the program and that three or four participants are expected to graduate this May 24.

House OKs measure to incentivize hiring ex-offenders

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House measure that would provide an incentive to hire qualified ex-offenders now heads to the Senate after the House unanimously passed House Bill 20-80 at its session last week.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) H.B. 20-80 obtained unanimous approval after the House passed the legislation to provide tax incentives to businesses that hire qualified ex-offenders.

The bill seeks to reward businesses who hire ex-offenders who are U.S.-eligible workers and are unemployed. These businesses may qualify for a nonrefundable credit per worker against the tax imposed on Commonwealth-sourced income, or the Northern Marianas Territorial Income Tax.

Fresh off from the committee, the bill to reward businesses with $1,500 off income taxes was later amended to $10,000 per worker in the House Ways and Means Committee, also chaired by Demapan.

Ways and Means further amended the bill to reflect that the qualified ex-offender must work with the company for at least two tax years, as opposed to the one year originally introduced by Demapan.

H.B. 20-80 also limits employers by allowing them to claim the tax credit for each qualified ex-offender for two tax years only.

The employers must first procure a certification from the Department of Corrections and offer it to the Division of Revenue and Taxation before being able to obtain the incentives.

The bill defines an ex-offender as someone who has been convicted of a felony under federal, state, or Commonwealth law and excludes offenders who would be subject for registration under the CNMI Sex Offender Register as well as offenders who are hired not more than one year after the conviction or release from prison.

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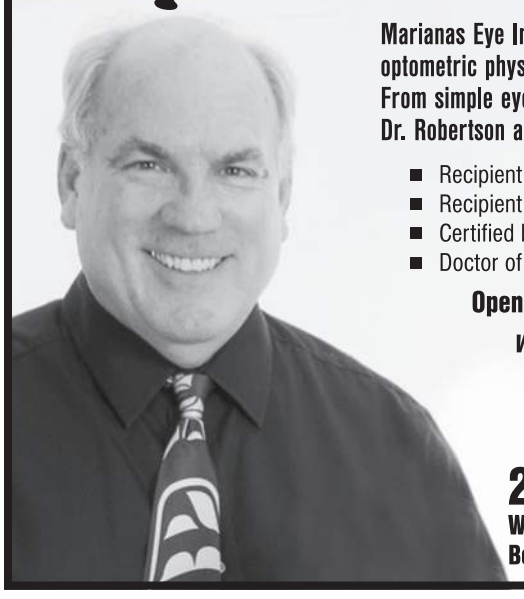

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Power interruption today

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, May 7, from 9am to 12pm to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace a rotted primary power pole in Chalan Kanoa.

This is part of an ongoing maintenance program to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout the island.

Areas to be affected by today's power outage are Chalan Kanoa (Casilda St. and Anita Ave.). No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

Power outage onWednesday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Wednesday, May 9, from 2pm to 4pm. Areas affected include Petroleum Lane in Lower Base. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected. The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize primary lines of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and to allow CUC's contractor, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace two wooden poles along the Feeder 2 distribution circuit in Lower Base.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Congratulations & Best Wishes to all Graduating Class of 2018
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ROADSIDE WAVING
Former governor Juan N. Babauta makes a two-thumbs-up sign to a motorist as his running mate Dr. Rita A. Sablan waves to passing vehicles during an early roadside waving for the 2018 graduates near Joeten Dandan last Friday morning. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Habitual offender gets 7 years in prison for 2 burglaries

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A habitual offender who burglarized an establishment and a house on Saipan within less than a month was sentenced Thursday last week to seven years in prison.

Cheyenne Sablan was sentenced to a total of 10 years in prison for two counts of burglary, all suspended except for seven years.

The 29-year-old Sablan is required to spend the first three years and six months in prison. Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja allowed him to offer an alternative to spend the remaining three years and six months in home confinement.

Naraja will hear on June 26, 2018, whether to grant Sablan's proposal for home confinement.

Sablan was given credit for time already served in jail. He has been in detention for almost two years now.

After serving the prison term, Sablan will be placed on 10 years of supervised probation. He was ordered to pay $1,400 and $400 plus in restitution to his first and second victims.

Sablan was required to pay a $100 fine, plus $100 in probation fee per year, and court costs. He was also ordered to perform community service.

Sablan pleaded guilty on Jan. 10, 2017, to two counts of burglary as part of a plea deal.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas recommended a sentence of five years for each count, to run concurrently. That means Sablan shall serve five years for the two counts.

In the first case, on Aug. 9, 2016, at 1:30am, Sablan entered the house of Ko Jin Hag and Ji Hye Lee to commit theft. In that case, the victims woke up to the intruder inside their house.

In less than a month, on Aug. 29, 2016, Sablan broke into CK Internet at 10:19am, also to commit theft. In that case, the victim was inside the building, where she also resides, taking a shower when the defendant broke in.

Citing seven previous criminal cases against Sablan, Barcinas said, the defendant was already a juvenile offender back in 1998 and graduated to a career criminal.

Barcinas said Sablan is a repeat offender and has been given leniency in the past.

"His recent criminal actions show a complete disregard for the laws of the Commonwealth, a disregard for the safety and prosperity of the community, and the safety for all the victims," she said.

Barcinas said although the government is sympathetic to Sablan's medical condition dating back to 2011, his medical condition did not stop him from terrorizing the community with his criminal behavior.

"In fact, before his arrest, the defendant was skipping his treatment," the prosecutor said.

Assistant public defender Nancy A. Dominski, counsel for Sablan, asked the court to consider defendant's medical condition as a mitigating factor to release him early.

Saipan Tribune opted not to specify Sablan's medical condition.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CNMI COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC LAND USE PLAN UPDATE FOR ROTA, TINIAN, SAIPAN, AND THE NORTHERN ISLANDS

A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) has retained SSFM CNMI along with their sub-consultant, Chris Hart & Partners, Inc., to update the CNMI's Public Land Use Plan in order to satisfy Public Law 15-02. This effort is intended to incorporate the public's interests, the needs of government agencies, and groups representing commercial interests.

The first set of public hearings for this project occurred during the week of September 18 to September 21, 2017. The second set of public hearings regarding the CNMI Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update for Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands have been scheduled for each municipality as follows:

1) Municipality of Rota
   a. Date – Monday, May 7, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall
2) Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
   a. Date – Tuesday, May 8, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
3) Municipality of Saipan - 1
   a. Date – Wednesday, May 9, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Hopwood Middle School Cafeteria
4) Municipality of Saipan - 2
   a. Date – Thursday, May 10, 2018
   b. Time – 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
   c. Location – Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria
5) Municipality of Saipan - 3
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
   c. Location – Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall, Garapan
6) Municipality of the Northern Islands
   a. Date – Friday, May 11, 2018
   b. Time – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
   c. Location – Carolinian Utt, Garapan

Comments on the Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update may be submitted orally or in writing at any of the scheduled public hearings. Persons unable to attend, including off-island residents, may fill out an online stakeholder survey form or view the current draft available on DPL's website at http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/. You may also email your comments directly to rreyes@ssfmcnmillc.com or jhart@chpmaui.com to ensure that your interests are heard and considered. After the public hearings, all comments and feedback from this second round of public hearings will be compiled for incorporation into the final draft of the updated public land use plan. Therefore, the public is encouraged to attend any of the scheduled public hearings and provide comment.

There will be a final Public Involvement Program Meeting to present the final draft of the updated public land use plan. The tentative timeframe is mid-July 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the public hearings, please contact SSFM CNMI at (670) 233-7770.

Rota DPS, DPW, CPA aid in Rota Centron Hustisia beautification

Last week, Rota Department of Public Safety and Department of Public Works employees began water blasting the Rota Centron Hustisia, preparing the building for the fresh coat of bright white paint that will soon cover its exterior walls.

The Centron Hustisia in Sinapalo has not been painted since it opened with its original beige hue in 2006.

The building is occupied by Superior Court staff and includes separate spaces for the attorney general and public defender's offices. In recent years, one-half of the building was also occupied by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which moved out late last year and will soon be replaced by the Department of Public Safety. DPS will move into the building after air conditioners are installed.

"The Judiciary does not have maintenance staff stationed on Rota, so I immediately began searching for people after being assigned to supervise the project," said Judiciary administrative specialist and special deputy clerk Michelle Atalig.

"Initially, we had one DPW employee to help in painting," said Atalig. Seeing that more manpower was needed, she contacted DPS. Atalig was told one or two officers would be assigned, so she was surprised and impressed when several officers arrived at the courthouse ready to assist.

"We thank DPS acting resident director Raimundo Manglona for providing the personnel without hesitation," said associate justice John A. Manglona. "We also thank DPW resident director Vanessa Charfauros for assigning employees to handle electrical work at the Centron Hustisia, as well assisting with the painting project."

While the Judiciary purchased the paints and supplies for the project, Atalig had to contact different agencies for scaffolds and an additional water blaster. The Commonwealth Ports Authority provided the scaffolds needed to reach the upper portion of the building.

"It's really nice that everyone has been willing to contribute and support," said Atalig. It is anticipated that painting will be completed in late May. ***(PR)***

FOA to stage *Into the Woods*

The Friends of the Arts' most spectacular play of the season is coming up. The James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim Broadway musical *Into the Woods* will be performed on May 9, 10 and 11.

This is a postponement of the earlier announced April schedule.

The award-winning Broadway musical will be directed by Harold Easton, assisted by Marilou Conner, with Katie Hoyt as the musical director for this Friends of the Arts production.

Into the Woods debuted in San Diego at the Old Globe Theatre in 1986 and premiered on Broadway on Nov. 5, 1987, where it won several Tony Awards.

The musical plot stems from several Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault fairy tales, with characters taken from *Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel*, and *Cinderella*. The story follows a childless baker and his wife in their quest to begin a family by finding a red cape, a white cow, corn-yellow hair and a magic slipper to get a wicked witch to remove a curse she has placed on them.

This play, just before Mother's Day, will be dedicated to all of the moms of the community, who are invited to attend at half-price.

The play will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Show dates will be on May 9, 10 and 11, all shows starting at 7pm. Tickets prices for all three shows start at $4 for students, $6 for FOA members, and $8 for adults and half-price for all moms! You may purchase tickets at Bridge Capital at their front desk, from members of the play's cast and at the door for each performance.

The Friends of the Arts is the CNMI's local community theater organization that promotes performing arts through hosting several plays each year. For more information or ticket reservations, contact Frank Gibson through email at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The CNMI community, especially its mothers, are invited and warmly welcomed to come and enjoy the performance. ***(PR)***

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A new magazine will be featuring 2 sections called

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and

'Insta-Post It'

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In "Sugar & Spice," the magazine will feature the photos that people take of their food. Instead of just posting the photo on Facebook, why not have it published for a much wider audience? Take a photo of what you are eating and send it to us at editor@saipantribune.com, with a note saying it's for Sugar & Spice, where they ordered it, or if they made it themselves. If you made it yourself, can we have the recipe?

In "Insta-Post It," we encourage readers to send in their Instagram photos for publication, whether it's a wedding, baptism, birthday, or Christening. Wouldn't it be awesome to have your milestone featured and memorialized by the new magazine? Preserve a copy of the moment by having the magazine post it.

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‘Taste’ pays tribute to Cinco de Mayo

Dignitaries and special guests cut the ribbon to officially open the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden kicked off last Saturday at its usual digs at the American Memorial Park with a tribute to the famous Mexican holiday, *Cinco de Mayo*.

In line with this theme, the Marianas Visitors Authority hosted its first 5-lb burrito eating competition at the back end of the staging area.

The monster burrito, donated by The Hut, was your basic steak burrito with the works and it came with a shot of tequila or MVA’s special concoction.

Although over a dozen individuals signed up for the competition, only five contestants were chosen and they were Zachariah Johnson, Andrew Jon Songsong, Kirk Johns, Simon Necesito, and Daniel Kintol II.

The contestants were required to finish the enormous

Continued on Next Page

The Kanoa Resort Saipan booth.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Multiple establishments serve food at the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Local jewelry and adornments are sold at the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The D’Elegance booth.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Bubba Gump booth.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, May 09, 2018 12 noon** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #3, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (04/03/18)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson’s Report
  A. Letter from Yvette Sablan-Special Assistant for SAR Program
VII. Director’s Report
VIII. Investigator’s Report
IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
  A. Governor’s Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
  A. New Applications:
  B. Renewal Applications:
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Applicant
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

JUDICIARY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
18-JUDICIARY-03

INSTALATION OF SURVELLANCE CAMERAS
at the
GUMA HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE,
SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Submission Date: May 18, 2018, 3:00 P.M.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for the installation of thirty five (35) surveillance cameras to be installed at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **April 18, 2018** at the Cashier’s Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to Jim.Stowell@justice.gov.mp.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **May 3rd at 9:00 a.m., local time** at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission–Law Library. The meeting is expected to take at least an hour in order to provide prospective proposal submitters the opportunity to acquire sufficient knowledge of the building and the coaxial cable runs from cameras to the control / recording room so as to be able to present a bid that completely anticipates the material and labor costs entailed in completing the job.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP18-JUDICIARY-03** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier’s Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **May 18, 2018, 3:00 p.m., local time.** Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **May 30, 2019, 3:00 p.m., local time.** Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp.

The CNMI Judiciary the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Judiciary. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Judiciary and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ John T. Villagomez
Budget and Finance Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: Thursday, May 10, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2018-005

Building Maintenance Services for NMHC’s Housing Units in Saipan

Proposal packets will be available on **April 10, 2018,** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on April 23, 2018, at the NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

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INVITATION FOR BID

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BID SUBMISSION DATE: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2018-006

“Ground Maintenance of NMHC’s Properties in Rota”

Proposal packets will be available on April 25, 2018, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or the Rota Field Office in Songsong Village, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on May 08, 2018, at the NMHC Rota Field Office, Songsong Village, Rota.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Marianas Visitors Authority staff poses for a photo
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

5-lb burrito in 20 minutes and wash it down with a shot of their preferred liquor.

After 20 minutes of intense and messy eating, Johnson was named the first 5-lb burrito eating competition champion. He was awarded a new Galaxy S7 smartphone, with a free three-month plan with IT&E and $75 worth of Taste of the Marianas tokens valid for the entire duration of Taste this month.

Johnson, a Physical Education instructor at the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School, said that his motivation to win was the fact that he had broken his phone just days before the competition.

"I needed a new phone… I was demonstrating a few moves on the basketball court this week and I dropped my phone and it cracked…a co-worker of mine sent me a picture of the challenge so I said 'OK, I'm going to do it; free phone, done,'" he said.

According Johnson, he has never participated in any kind of eating competition before but is now keeping an open mind about them. His preparations included not eating anything a day before the competition, a rigorous workout session to get the digestive system going, and a positive mindset.

The Taste of Marianas opening night drew hundreds of community members piling into the American Memorial Park to join the festivities.

The festival had a total of 24 booths food or drinks, each occupied by some of the island's most popular restaurants, or individuals that wanted to showcase some of their signature, mouth-watering dishes.

The Taste of The Marianas will be open to the public every Saturday throughout the month of May from 5pm to 11pm. As is standard fare, those who want to purchase anything would need to purchase tokens from an MVA booth, and the tokens will then be used to purchase food or drinks.

Zachariah Johnson devours a 5-lb burrito
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Andrew Songsong devours a 5-lb burrito
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Kirk Johns devours a 5-lb burrito.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Zachariah Johnson is named the burrito eating competition champ.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The burrito eating competition judges pose for a photo
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 89

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Incels: As if hating women could get you a girlfriend

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune *Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@chicagotribune.com.*

What are we to make of "incels," the oddball community of frustrated guys who go online to complain about how they can't find women who want to have sex with them?

Gee, I wonder why?

There's room for all sorts of opinions on the web, I like to think. But this one has turned deadly. An incel, which stands for "involuntary celibate," is blamed for driving a rented van that jumped the sidewalk and plowed into pedestrians on a Toronto street on April 23.

Police charged Alek Minassian, 25, of Toronto with killing 10 people and injuring 15, most of whom were women. Before the attack, authorities say, he posted a message on his Facebook page to announce his incel ties.

"The Incel Rebellion has already begun!" it said in part. "We will overthrow all the Chads and Stacys! All hail the Supreme Gentleman Elliot Rodger!"

That's incel-speak. "Chads" in their world are guys who are cool and good-looking enough to attract what incels feel unfairly denied, sex with attractive and sexually active "Stacys." "Supreme gentleman" and "perfect guy" is how Elliot Rodger, perversely an incel patron saint, described himself in a lengthy manifesto before he killed six people and injured 14 others in a 2014 shooting rampage in Santa Barbara, Calif.

He wrote a manifesto blaming women for his loneliness and the fact that he was still a virgin. "I'm the perfect guy and yet you throw yourselves at these obnoxious men instead of me, the supreme gentleman," he wrote.

Now, that sad, delusional loner appears to have posthumously inspired his own sick, posthumous personality cult—and at least one copycat, Minassian.

Other mass murderers are treated like heroes in the looniest incel chatter. "Going Sodini," for example, refers to George Sodini, 48, who opened fire in a women's dance class at an LA Fitness gym near Pittsburgh, killing four—including himself—and wounding nine others

Incel postings sometime include disturbing reverence for Marc Lepine, a Canadian who opened fire at the Ecole Polytechnique, a Montreal engineering school, in 1989, killing 14 women and wounding ten other women and four men before killing himself.

Incels evolved out of the men's rights activism that emerged on the heels of the 1960s feminist wave to advocate for such legitimate issues as men's rights in child custody cases.

Since then we have seen an array of online communities—men's rights activists, pick-up artist "seduction" communities and others—amounting to "male supremacist" movements, according to Alex DiBranco, a Yale doctoral candidate who

See INCELS on Next Page

You can play America by playing to the president's fragile ego

By DAVID ROTHKOPF
Los Angeles Times

David Rothkopf is a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, host of the "Deep State Radio" podcast and an author of many books on international affairs.

Never mind nuclear fears about North Korea and Iran. Set aside concerns about Russian cyberattacks. World leaders today are racing to harness a different source of power to tip the geopolitical balance in their favor.

From Moscow to Pyongyang, from Paris to Jerusalem, presidents, prime ministers and dictators-for-life are seeking to weaponize Donald Trump's vanity.

Different leaders are using different approaches. South Korean President Moon Jae-in gave President Trump credit for a diplomatic breakthrough with North Korea, to ensure Trump saw peace as a potential legacy issue.

French President Emmanuel Macron literally and figuratively stroked Trump, with the goal of getting him to preserve the Iran nuclear deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu put on an internationally televised show just for Trump, tailored to make Trump feel that his long-expressed hostility to Iran was justified.

China's leader, Xi Jingping, and the Saudi king both rolled out the red carpet for Trump in ways they did not for President Obama, ensuring that Trump felt special.

Some leaders have played on Trump's fear of humiliation. The prosecutor general of Ukraine has stopped supporting the Mueller investigation in order to curry favor with Trump and to ensure that certain arms deals would move forward, according to the New York Times.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has proved a virtuoso at playing Trump's fragile ego, sometimes propping him up with glowing reports from Russian propaganda outlets, other times firing warning shots.

There is nothing new, of course, about leaders flattering one another. Indeed, we have formalized flattery in international relations with the pomp and circumstance of official welcomes, 21-gun salutes and state dinners.

But with those ceremonies, we are paying deference to entire nations, not necessarily to the individuals who happen to represent them. With Trump, we have entered new territory.

In his short time in office, Trump has revealed himself to be unlike his predecessors in several important ways.

Although all presidents have egos, Trump has spent his career promoting his own personal brand, inscribing his name in big gold letters wherever he could. He has shown himself to be extraordinarily self-absorbed, providing a constant stream of self-congratulatory remarks.

He has claimed credit for economic recoveries that started years before he assumed office, for launching the career of Lady Gaga and for business deals he had nothing to do with—not to mention the supposedly record-breaking inauguration crowd that wasn't.

All of this sends a message to other world leaders.

As a former U.S. Cabinet official who deals regularly with foreign leaders put it to me: "They know he can be played." Or, as a Chinese business leader said during a trip I took to Asia in April: "He is so vain. He's like a child—easy to manage if you know what he wants."

It's not just Trump's sensitivity and insatiable hunger for the spotlight that make him easy pickings. He has institutionalized his egotism in a way no previous American president did.

Trump has demoted and devalued entire departments and processes that once distributed power through the government. He has concentrated power in the Oval Office, making it clear that he will not tolerate being upstaged by his Cabinet. His administration's cringe-worthy fawning over him shows that the members understand their public service is all about serving one man.

The institutions we've established in Washington are supposed to depersonalize the process of governing, to offset the power and interests of individuals. As Trump undercuts agencies, appointees and career civil servants, putting himself and his feelings at the center of everything, he has made global affairs revolve around his own vanity and foibles.

This is dangerous in the best of times. It is especially dangerous when the leader in question is under siege, ill-informed and impulsive—and when those who seek to influence him know it.

As these circumstances worsen, and as more power is concentrated in one self-absorbed man, it is increasingly likely that the great challenges of our time will be resolved not according to their merits, but by how Trump feels they make him look when he looks in the mirror.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHCC, government failed but the church saved us

Yes, Esther Muña may have had every legal reason to do all the things she has done, from firing Vince to locking the doors and closing the Kagman Community Health Center. But not everything that is legal is right. But big thanks to Fr. Jesse and Santa Soledad parish for coming to the rescue of the KCHC.

Muña came out telling everyone the board supported her decisions and I wonder how that happened when the chair even said Muña was wrong for firing Vince. The board is supposed to be leading, not following Muña, who has been wrong from the start by firing Vince. She even promised to work with KCHC in transferring the resources but the first thing she does is lock the doors and put guards on duty. Yes, there are a lot of valuable medical equipment in the clinic but they weren't going anywhere. If fact, the feds are the ones who purchased the resources, not CHCC, so if the feds are not complaining, why is Muña fussing about protecting resources? Muña even gave the impression the resources would stay at the clinic but now she wants to take the resources back. This is about vindictive leadership, not poor communications.

When the story first broke that the KCHC was going to be independent, the governor, Muña and the CHCC board were talking about how good of an idea it was. The governor even promised the staff at KCHC and publicly that he would make sure the clinic would remain open, with no interruption in services to the patients. Well, I guess we now know the governor has been made a liar. I know the governor can't be happy about what has happened and I hope he will do something to fix the problem and vindicate himself ASAP. The governor could have easily used an executive order to direct the Department of Public Lands to simply wait before doing anything official, as this was not a time-sensitive issue for DPL to address. But it seems DPL expedited their involvement that may have contributed to help Muña with shutting down the clinic. The governor was even undermined by his own administration. The governor should have put some DPS officers out there to keep CHCC out and the resources in, so the clinic would definitely have stayed open, but I guess he didn't think it would get this ugly. We can only wait to see what he will do about this.

The board, whose chair said Muña couldn't fire Vince, is now in support of everything she has done. The CHCC board actually approved of Muña, closing the clinic with new locks. Prior to the clinic being closed, CHCC had multiple staff inventorying the KCHC for several days even though it was only an eight-hour job for two people. I worked for an inventory firm during the summer when I was in school and, as small as that center is, it would not take many people that many days it took the CHCC staff. I think anyone with common sense knows the physical resources of the clinic were not going anywhere and were not in any jeopardy of being damaged or stolen. For the board to buy this BS from Muña of protecting resources shows how gullible the board has gotten. I think the board has gotten their purpose mixed up thinking they work for Muña when they really work for the hospital and the people who are patients of KCHC whom they failed miserably! The CHCC board is quickly destroying their integrity and character and any confidence the public may have for the board. Just because you have the law on your side won't save the board or Muña in the long run if this is the best they can do. Maybe it's time for the heat to be turned up on the CHCC board, like the CUC board that was annihilated.

CHCC had the right to take their resources if desired but they didn't have a right to put locks on the doors and close down the clinic. This thing of protection of CHCC resources is a bunch of…. The resources are now just sitting there, benefitting no one and no official transfer as Muña has decided differently now. Taking the clinic's resources is not going to help or improve CHCC at all but it will surely hurt the clinic and patients. Muña is only fooling the board, not the people with common sense and certainly not the governor whom she and the board have made look bad by closing the clinic.

Readers need to know that a meeting was scheduled for only the CHCC and KCHC boards to work out a solution. The KCHC board showed up and some representatives who were concerned but the lawmakers were asked to leave and they did. The CHCC board showed up with Muña and their attorney and neither one of them left. The meeting ended up being a platform for Muña to complain about the KCHC and virtually nothing about transferring resources and fixing the problem. It was just a set up for Muña to persuade the CHCC board to follow her and it worked! The meeting was supposed to have been about finding solutions, not KCHC defending itself.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Casino contruction extension

Imperial Pacific requested yet another extension. No wait, actually IPI didn't even have to request the extension. The Casino Commission that's supposed to regulate them already requested if for them, pre-emptively.

It's kind of like a sports referee who yells out "that wasn't a foul!" before the play even happens. I really don't like how it smells.

I am a big supporter of IPI and the casino. I'm grateful for the money they pour into our tax coffers and into our economy, but we have to treat them as a business we regulate and evaluate, and not as a favorite child who can get away with anything and everything.

Imperial Pacific (at that time called Best Sunshine) promised to complete the casino by early 2017. They signed and agreed, as a professional company that supposedly knows what it's doing. They agreed to spend an initial amount (just the initial amount) of two billion dollars or maybe it was seven billion dollars, and build a hotel, or maybe two hotels, or even three hotels or maybe two hotels and some villas. The hotel was supposed to be a "six star," whatever that means, or an "integrated resort" or maybe an "eco-resort" after another week. They figured that changing their name from Best Sunshine to Imperial Pacific would make us forget those promises, but those of us paying attention haven't forgotten.

Remember the extension request the first time around? Their excuse was the typhoon.

Why did we grant them that extension? Even the barbecue shack down the street knows that this part of the world has typhoons. How could IPI not know that?

We shouldn't have let them use the "dog ate our homework" excuse, but we did.

And now, they're using the lack of labor as an excuse. Guys, we need to have a chat and it's nothing personal, but the U.S. Immigration regulations have been around longer than your company has! Weren't you aware of these rules when you signed the agreement? Weren't you aware that your contractors can't use "tourist" labor? Weren't you aware that the CW cap will decline? Did you ever hear about that? It's the most often discussed thing on Saipan. For all the experts you claim to have on staff, how can you not know something that even my dog knows?

IPI was unable to raise cash in the credit markets. They shopped their bonds around, Nobody wanted to lend them money. Cui Lijie ended up having to lend the company her own personal money. The credit markets didn't believe that IPI could finish the project. But somehow, our own Commonwealth Casino Commission thinks they know more than professional investors?

So where's the seven billion dollar "initial investment"? Does IPI even have that kind of money? Let's look at their balance sheet:

https://quotes.wsj.com/HK/XHDG/1076/financials/annual/balance-sheet

IPI has 286 million HDK in cash and short-term investments. That's the money it has to spend; 286 million HDK is 36 million USD. That's it. There are no billions here. Can they really finish the hotel with just $36 million, when they claimed that they'll be investing $7 billion (that's $7 thousand million)? My dear Casino Commissioners, this is not hard math!

Maybe IPI has a rabbit it can pull out of its hat. Great! Let's make them prove it. Let's make them post a performance bond. That's insurance that quarantees they will meet a deadline with the project. Better yet, let's open up the casino license to an additional operator. One with enough money to actually do the job. A company that has only $36 million is not exactly in the big leagues.

Oh, but we already agreed to the deal in the original license agreement? Twice now, IPI has wanted the agreement changed, to their own benefit. Because the dog ate their homework. If they can demand a modification to the agreement, why can't we?

It's time for us to start looking out for the interests of the CNMI and its people. It's time to change the casino license agreement for our benefit. This is not a one-way street.

Let's make IPI stand up to its promises. Let's make them post a bond, and let's show them the possibility of their exclusive license becoming no longer exclusive. It's only fair. They asked for favors, and we can get some favors too!

In the real world, any concession is a tit-for-tat. You get something and you give something. I don't know what the CNMI has been "getting" from IPI, although I have some ideas.

Let's change things around. Let's make those benefits go to our economy and our tax coffers instead of to those among our elite who are in IPI's pocket. Because while the dog ate IPI's homework, another kind of dog might be eating our lunch.

Jack Muna
Koblerville, Saipan

INCELS

From Page 10

writes about incels and other extremist groups for The Public Eye, a progressive publication of the progressive Political Research Associates.

She sees a sense of "aggrieved entitlement" at play in explicitly misogynist attacks similar to white supremacist groups "which tell white men that they have been unfairly deprived of their rightful place in society," she told me in a telephone interview.

Citing sociologist Michael Kimmel, author of such influential critiques of male culture as "Guyland" and "Angry White Men," she notes that entitled killers need "to believe that they were justified, that their murderous rampage was legitimate."

Kimmel, citing former prison psychiatrist James Gilligan, also has observed that shame and humiliation underlie virtually all violence: "Because I feel small, I will make you feel smaller."

What is to be done? Robin Hanson, a George Mason University economist, provocatively argues that "the desire for some sort of sexual redistribution" may be no more ridiculous than the notion of redistributing income to the less advantaged.

Sex adviser Dan Savage proposes the incel phenomenon offers an argument for loosening our laws and attitudes toward professional sex workers. Others have proposed stepping up development on sex robots.

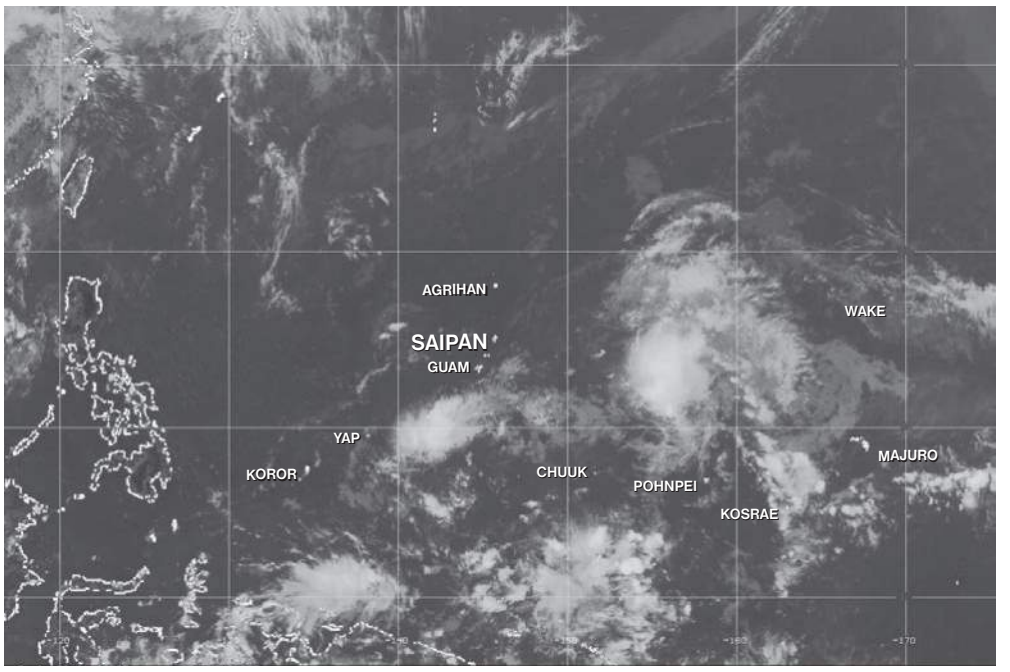
None of these alternatives strikes me as particularly satisfying in the long run. Among us "normies," incel slang for normal non-incel folks, young people often discover that their desire for sex masks an underlying deeper desire to be loved. An inability to love and care about other people may be the real tragedy of the incel world.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:21 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Refreshed wind grids from the latest GFS, but no significant changes for the next few days. Trade winds will break down by Wednesday as a trough extending west from 97W drifts north through the Marianas, resulting in diminishing winds shifting around to south, then southwest Wed-Thu. Skies will remain mostly cloudy through Tuesday, before becoming partly cloudy again mid-week as 97W and the trough move north of the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	86° / 57°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	82° / 77°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 71°
London	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	78° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorm	97° / 82°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 48°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	82° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°
Osaka	Showers	73° / 57°
Paris	Sunny	79° / 55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Rome	Thunderstorm	77° / 57°
Salem	Sunny	86° / 61°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	79° / 50°
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	77° / 55°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69
7:24 AM	LOW TIDE	1.21
11:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.46
7:01 PM	LOW TIDE	0.18

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:26 AM	-
Tuesday	12:32 AM	12:15 PM	-
Wednesday	1:15 AM	1:05 PM	-
Thursday	1:56 AM	1:55 PM	-
Friday	2:37 AM	2:45 PM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

US firms, debt could be China's targets if US plays hardball

AP
White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, second from left, leaves his hotel in Beijing, Friday, May 4, 2018.

BEIJING (AP)—In a looming trade war between the world's two largest economies, American companies in China may have a bull's-eye on their backs.

The Trump administration is pushing China to cut its trade surplus with the United States by $200 billion by the end of 2020 and give up policies that favor domestic companies — the core of Beijing's state-led economic model.

As the two sides exchange threats of tariff hikes, their lopsided trade balance means China will run out of imports for retaliation before President Donald Trump does.

But Beijing has other ways to inflict pain. Chief among those is harassing American companies that make autos, operate restaurant chains, sell computer software and do other business in China's heavily regulated economy.

Other possible options include selling U.S. government debt or disrupting diplomatic efforts over North Korea, but those would damage Beijing's own interests.

Trump has threatened higher tariffs on $150 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints Beijing violates its free-trade commitments by stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

Beijing reacted to his first round with a $50 billion list including American aircraft, soybeans and pork for possible retaliation. If it raises that to match Trump's total, that would be nearly equal to China's 2017 imports of U.S. goods.

The Commerce Ministry has warned that no option is off the table.

TARGET AMERICAN COMPANIES

Chinese regulators have wide discretion and an arsenal of tools to disrupt U.S. businesses from withholding licenses to launching tax, anti-monopoly or other investigations.

The U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc. might serve as an early example. China is the final major government withholding approval of Qualcomm's proposal for its $44 billion acquisition of rival NXP Semiconductors.

In April, the Commerce Ministry said Qualcomm's proposal "has difficulty" resolving concerns of Chinese anti-monopoly regulators. Qualcomm and NXP said April 19 that at the Chinese ministry's request, the companies withdrew and refiled an application for Beijing to clear the acquisition.

China's entirely state-controlled media have encouraged consumer boycotts against Japanese, South Korean and other products during previous disputes with those governments.

"China can harm the interests of the United States by limiting the operations of multinational corporations," said Jin Canrong, a foreign relations specialist at Beijing's Renmin University, in comments to the website wallstreetcn.com.

Jin pointed to the example of South Korean retailer Lotte, whose business was destroyed by Beijing last year after it sold land to the Seoul government for an anti-missile system opposed by Chinese leaders.

Beijing retaliated by closing most of Lotte's 99 supermarkets and other outlets in China. Seoul and Beijing later mended relations, but South Korean news reports said Lotte has given up on China and is trying to sell its stores.

"Already we are hearing that approvals for some types of licenses for U.S. firms operating are being put on hold," the Eurasia Group said in a report.

FINANCIAL LEVERAGE

Chinese commentators say Beijing has financial weapons, though using them would cost China's own economy and international standing.

Nationalists point to China's $1.2 trillion holdings of U.S. government debt as leverage. But Beijing would suffer losses if it sold enough of that to influence U.S. debt financing costs. And there are few other places to store such vast foreign currency reserves.

Beijing also could obstruct U.S. investment in China, wrote commentator Ren Zeping on money.163.com. But that also would impose a cost by worsening an investment slump Chinese leaders are trying to reverse.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Thousands party at Paris protest to show anger at Macron

PARIS (AP)—Tens of thousands of protesters in Paris danced, picnicked and railed against President Emmanuel Macron at a "party" marking his first year in office. Police fired tear gas on troublemakers on the margins of the largely festive protest Saturday, and eight people were arrested. Authorities deployed 2,000 police to the event after violence and ransacking scarred a May Day protest in the French capital earlier this week, shocking many. "Stop Macron!" read placards at Saturday's rally in front of Paris' famed Opera Garnier. Demonstrators then marched through tourist-filled neighborhoods toward the Bastille plaza in eastern Paris. Organizers of Saturday's march, the far-left party Defiant France, planned the event around the one-year anniversary of Macron's May 7, 2017 election. He was inaugurated a week later, and quickly launched broad changes to France's labor rules to increase the nation's global competitiveness. Protesters are angry at reforms led by Macron, a centrist former investment banker, such as cutting some worker protections and increasing police powers.

UK info chief orders SCL to give professor

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Information Commissioner's Office is backing an American academic's effort to obtain his personal data from SCL Group, which includes Cambridge Analytica. The ICO said in a ruling posted Saturday that SCL must provide the data within 30 days, warning that failure to do so would be a criminal offense. The Enforcement Notice found in favor of professor David Carroll, saying his right to the personal information is protected by the Data Protection Act of 1998. The ruling says Carroll sought his information from Cambridge Analytica in 2017 and was unhappy with the responses, prompting his complaint to the ICO. Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham said the company "has consistently refused to cooperate with our investigation." Cambridge Analytica announced Wednesday it plans to file for bankruptcy in Britain and the U.S.

Wisconsin man eats 30,000th Big Mac hamburger

FOND DU LAC, Wis. (AP)—A retired Wisconsin prison guard has eaten his 30,000th Big Mac, nearly 46 years after eating his first. WBAY-TV reports that 64-year-old Don Gorske of Fond du Lac recorded the milestone at a local McDonald's on Friday. Gorske says he's eaten at least one Big Mac almost every day since May 17, 1972. He has kept most of the boxes or receipts or has made specific notes in calendars that he's kept. Guinness World Records has recognized Gorske for the most Big Macs consumed since 2016, when his tally was 28,788. Gorske says he's eaten so many because he just loves hamburgers. He says his cholesterol and blood pressure are normal.

Billions on the line for firms as Trump weighs Iran pullout

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—From airplanes to oilfields, billions of dollars are on the line for international corporations as President Donald Trump weighs whether to pull America out of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Regardless of where they are headquartered, virtually all multinational corporations do business or banking in the U.S., meaning any return to pre-deal sanctions could torpedo deals made after the 2015 agreement came into force.

That threat alone has been enough to scare risk-averse firms, like Boeing Co., into slow-walking deals agreed to months ago. A complete pullout by the U.S. would wreak further havoc and likely frighten off those considering making the plunge.

"I absolutely think those on the fence will not jump in," said Richard Nephew, a former sanctions expert at the U.S. State Department who worked on the nuclear deal and now is at New York's Columbia University. "The only ones who will, will be those who see tremendous monetary benefit and no U.S. risk."

The 2015 Iran nuclear deal lifted crippling economic sanctions that had locked Iran out of international banking and the global oil trade. In return, Tehran limited its enrichment of uranium, reconfigured a heavy-water reactor so it couldn't produce plutonium and reduced its uranium stockpile and supply of centrifuges.

For Western businesses, the deal meant access to Iran's largely untapped market of 80 million people. Most prominently, airplane manufacturers rushed in to replace the country's dangerously dilapidated civilian fleet.

In December 2016, Airbus Group signed a deal with Iran's national carrier, IranAir, to sell it 100 airplanes for around $19 billion at list prices. Boeing later struck its own deal with IranAir for 80 aircraft with a list price of some $17 billion, promising that deliveries would begin in 2017 and run until 2025. Boeing separately struck another 30-airplane deal with Iran's Aseman Airlines for $3 billion at list prices.

But Boeing has yet to deliver a single aircraft to Iran. The Chicago-based company's CEO recently stressed it understands the "risks and implications around the Iranian aircraft deal," which would be the biggest business agreement between an American company and Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and U.S. Embassy takeover.

"We continue to follow the U.S. government's lead here and everything is being done per that process," Dennis Muilenburg said during a quarterly earnings conference call on April 25. "We have no Iranian deliveries that are scheduled or part of the skyline this year, so those have been deferred again in line with the U.S. government process."

Airbus, a European airline consortium based in Toulouse, France, likewise continues its sales at the discretion of the American government. At least 10 percent of its aircraft components are of American origin, meaning it requires permission from the U.S. Treasury for its sales to Iran. Airbus has already delivered two A330-200s and one A321 to Iran.

Nation

Some calming of Hawaii volcano, but scientists remain wary

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP)—The number of homes destroyed by lava shooting out of openings in the ground created by Hawaii's Kilauea volcano climbed to five as some of the more than 1,700 people who evacuated prepared for the possibility they may not return for quite some time.

"I have no idea how soon we can get back," said Todd Corrigan, who left his home in Leilani Estates with his wife on Friday as lava burst through the ground three or four blocks from their home. They spent the night on the beach in their car and began looking for a vacation rental.

The Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory said eight vents, each several hundred yards (meters) long, opened in the neighborhood since Thursday. By late Saturday the fissures had quieted down and were only releasing steam and gas.

Scientists said Kilauea was likely to release more lava through additional vents, but they were unable to predict exactly where. Leilani Estates, a subdivision in the mostly rural district of Puna, is at greatest risk. Authorities ordered more than 1,700 residents to evacuate from there and nearby Lanipuna Gardens.

Hundreds of small earthquakes continued to rumble through the area Saturday, one day after a magnitude-6.9 temblor hit — the largest earthquake to hit Hawaii in more than 40 years. Magma moving through Kilauea set off the earthquakes, said geologists, who warned of aftershocks.

Authorities cautioned sulfuric gas pouring out of the vents also posed dangers, particularly to elderly and people with respiratory problems. Hawaii County spokeswoman Kanani Aton said some residents may be allowed to return home briefly to pick up medicine or take care of pets if sulfur dioxide levels drop as a result of the calming vents.

Tesha "Mirah" Montoya, 45, said the threat of toxic fumes wasn't enough to make her family evacuate, but the tipping point was the earthquakes.

"I felt like the whole side of our hill was going to explode," she said. "The earthquake was what made us start running and start throwing guinea pigs and bunnies in the car."

Montoya, her husband and daughter don't know how long they will be away from the three-story octagonal house they built nearly 20 years ago in a patch of "raw jungle."

"My heart and soul's there," she said in a phone interview from a cabin on the north side of the Big Island, where the family had hunkered down. "I'm nothing without the land. It's part of my being."

Gary McMillan said his home is about 3,000 feet (914 meters) from one of the fissures in Leilani Estates. He monitored remote cameras set up in his home and said his home was still intact.

He's living out of his van with his wife at the nearby community center and constantly thinks about things they left behind, but understands why authorities evacuated residents.

"I was a critical care nurse for 37 years, so I understand the health implications and the dangers involved," McMillan said.

Kilauea has been continuously erupting since 1983 and is one of the world's most active volcanoes. In 2014, lava burned a house and smothered a cemetery as it approached Pahoa, the town closest to Leilani Estates. But this flow stalled just before it reached Pahoa's main road.

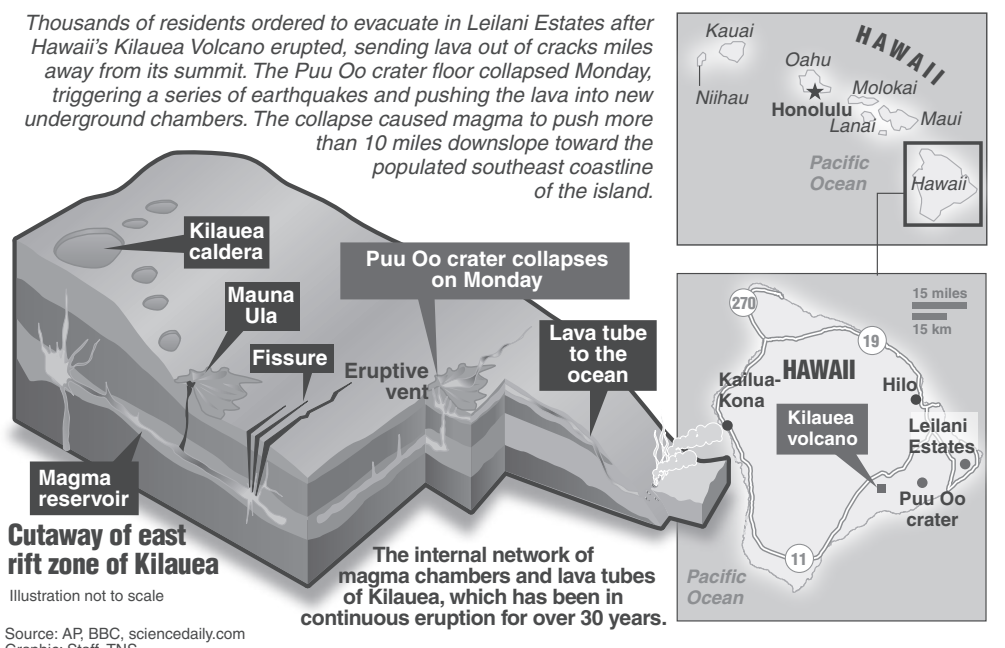
Nearly 30 years ago, lava slowly covered an entire town, Kalapana, over the period of about a year.

AP

In this Saturday, May 5, 2018, photo provided by the U.S. Geological Survey, lava from Fissure 7 slowly advances to the northeast on Hookapu Street in the Leilani Estates subdivision in Pahoa, Hawaii.

Lava flow closes in on Hawaiian village

Thousands of residents ordered to evacuate in Leilani Estates after Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano erupted, sending lava out of cracks miles away from its summit. The Puu Oo crater floor collapsed Monday, triggering a series of earthquakes and pushing the lava into new underground chambers. The collapse caused magma to push more than 10 miles downslope toward the populated southeast coastline of the island.



Source: AP, BBC, sciencedaily.com
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Video shows police stop of Native American teens on tour

DENVER (AP)—Police body camera footage and telephone recordings captured an incident in which two Native American teenagers were pulled from a Colorado college tour and questioned after another tour member reported "odd" behavior by "creepy kids."

The camera footage released Friday by Colorado State University shows two police officers searching the teens' pockets and questioning whether they were part of the tour.

The officers eventually determined that 19-year-old Thomas Kanewakeron Gray and his 17-year-old brother, Lloyd Skanahwati Gray had done nothing wrong and let them go after about five minutes.

But the incident last Monday has caused an outcry as a case of racial discrimination and prompted the university to apologize and try to make amends.

The video footage shows the brothers — one wearing a T-shirt and the other a hooded sweatshirt — walking in a group and down a set of stairs when an officer approaches and directs them to step aside, saying he and another officer — who is not visible in the video — are going to check the teens' pockets.

The younger brother has his hands in his pockets, and police officers ask him to take them out.

At first, the officer visible in the video asks the Grays short, focused questions, including whether they were part of the tour group and why they didn't "cooperate" when others asked them their names.

"The reason we stopped you and talked to you is because someone from the group called and said you guys just kind of came into the group," the officer said. "They also said they tried to ask you guys questions and you didn't want to answer questions."

The older teen quickly responds, explaining that they had arrived late for the tour and that his younger brother is shy. The younger teen offers to retrieve the email confirming their tour reservations.

"Yeah, yeah, do that, and then we'll get you out of here," the officer shown in the video said.

The other officer adds: "People were just worried because you guys were real quiet and they didn't know who you were because you guys didn't show up with parents or any of that stuff."

By then, however, their tour group had moved on without them and the brothers left the campus in Fort Collins, a city of about 160,000 and 65 miles (105 kilometers) north of Denver, and returned home to New Mexico.

ACROSS THE NATION

Protesters gather as NRA members meet in Dallas

DALLAS (AP)—Those gathered in Dallas to protest the National Rifle Association during its annual meeting include parents whose children were among the 17 people fatally shot in February at a high school in Parkland, Florida. Fred Guttenberg, whose daughter Jaime was killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, told the crowd at one of several gatherings Saturday that he wakes up every day with the sole purpose to "affect change in the gun control debate." Guttenberg spoke at a rally organized by #NoRA, a group founded by actress Alyssa Milano. She tells The Associated Press they're "trying to shine the light on the NRA's stronghold over policymaking in Washington." At another rally, Manuel Oliver, whose son Joaquin was killed in the Parkland shooting, created a mural containing the message: "We demand a fair game."

Doctor pleads guilty in fatal abortion

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York doctor who says he's done 40,000 abortions is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to criminally negligent homicide in the 2016 death of a woman who was six months pregnant and bled to death. The case in Queens Criminal Court marks one of the rare legal instances of criminal prosecution of a doctor over a medical error, but Assistant District Attorney Brad Leventhal said that Dr. Robert Rho's mistakes went beyond civil malpractice. "It's about greed and arrogance," Leventhal told jurors last week during closing arguments in the month-long trial. He said 30-year-old Jaime Lee Morales "bled to death because this defendant did nothing." Rather than call an ambulance, prosecutors said, Rho released Morales for her sister to drive her home in the Bronx, despite signs she was in grave condition and had collapsed in a bathroom of Rho's clinic.

NASA launches InSight spacecraft to Mars to dig down deep

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A robotic geologist armed with a hammer and quake monitor rocketed toward Mars on Saturday, aiming to land on the red planet and explore its mysterious insides. In a twist, NASA launched the Mars InSight lander from California rather than Florida's Cape Canaveral. It was the first interplanetary mission ever to depart from the West Coast, drawing pre-dawn crowds to fog-socked Vandenberg Air Force Base and rocket watchers down the California coast into Baja. "This is a big day. We're going back to Mars!" NASA's new boss, Jim Bridenstine, said following liftoff. "This is an extraordinary mission with a whole host of firsts."T he spacecraft will take more than six months to get to Mars and start its unprecedented geologic excavations, traveling 300 million miles (485 million kilometers) to get there. InSight will dig deeper into Mars than ever before — nearly 16 feet, or 5 meters — to take the planet's temperature. It will also attempt to make the first measurements of marsquakes, using a high-tech seismometer placed directly on the Martian surface.

Asia

N. Korea says US ruining mood of detente ahead of summit

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—With just weeks to go before President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are expected to hold their first-ever summit, Pyongyang on Sunday criticized what it called "misleading" claims that Trump's policy of maximum political pressure and sanctions are what drove the North to the negotiating table.

The North's official news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman warning the claims are a "dangerous attempt" to ruin a budding detente on the Korean Peninsula after Kim's summit late last month with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

At the summit, Kim agreed to a number of measures aimed at improving North-South ties and indicated he is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the peninsula, though exactly what that would entail and what conditions the North might require have not yet been explained.

Trump and senior U.S. officials have suggested repeatedly that Washington's tough policy toward North Korea, along with pressure on its main trading partner China, have played a decisive role in turning around what had been an extremely tense situation. Just last year, as Kim was launching long-range missiles at a record pace and trading vulgar insults with Trump, it would have seemed unthinkable for the topic of denuclearization to be on the table.

But the North's statement on Sunday seemed to be aimed at strengthening Kim's position going into his meeting with Trump. Pyongyang claims Kim himself is the driver of the current situation.

AP

A South Korean activist, center, who opposes releasing anti-North Korea propaganda balloons to North Korea, scuffles with North Korean defectors during a rally in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Saturday, May 5, 2018.

"The U.S. is deliberately provoking the DPRK at the time when the situation on the Korean Peninsula is moving toward peace and reconciliation," the spokesman was quoted as saying. DPRK is short for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's formal name.

Kim and Trump are expected to meet later this month or in early June.

Trump has indicated the date and place have been chosen and said he believes the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Koreas might be a good venue. Singapore was also believed to be a potential site.

Experts are split over whether Kim's statement made with Moon at the DMZ marks a unique opening for progress or a rehash of Pyongyang's longstanding demand for security guarantees.

Sunday's comments were among the very few the North has made since Trump agreed in March to the meeting.

The spokesman warned the U.S. not to interpret Pyongyang's willingness to talk as a sign of weakness. He also criticized Washington for its ongoing "pressure and military threats" and its position that such pressure won't be eased until North Korea gives up its nuclear weapons completely.

Before Trump meets Kim, Washington is hoping to gain the release of three Korean-Americans accused of anti-state activities. Trump hinted the release of Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim was in the offing.

There was no sign of an imminent release on Sunday, though the men had reportedly been moved to the capital.

The White House, meanwhile, has announced a separate meeting between Trump and Moon at the White House on May 22 to "continue their close coordination on developments regarding the Korean Peninsula."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Anti-India clashes, fighting rage in Kashmir; many injured

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police and residents say scores of people have been injured during intense clashes in Indian-controlled Kashmir while government forces battle a group of rebels in a village. Hundreds of villagers threw rocks at Indian troops on Sunday in a bid to help rebels who are trapped in a civilian home in southern Shopian area. Police say counterinsurgency officers and soldiers cordoned a village following intelligence that at least three militants were hiding there. As the fighting between rebels and soldiers began, government forces also fired bullets, shotgun pellets and tear gas at the protesters who tried to reach the gunbattle site. At least 14 civilians have been injured, one of them critically. India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim it in its entirety.

Malaysia foils smuggling of 131 Sri Lankan immigrants

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police have intercepted a tanker with 131 Sri Lankans believed bound for Australia and New Zealand, smashing a large human smuggling ring that has been operating for a year. Authorities halted the modified tanker on Tuesday off the coast of southern Johor state, national police chief Mohamad Fuzi Harun said in a statement Saturday. He said the immigrants included 98 men, 24 women, four boys and five girls. Police also raided a fishing boat used to transport the migrants to the vessel and detained three Indonesians and four Malaysians on board, he said. Another five Malaysians were nabbed for suspected involvement in the smuggling syndicate. "This syndicate has been operating since mid-2017 and has international connections across Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and Malaysia," Fuzi said.

Suspected water contamination kills 10 Cambodians; 120 ill

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Ten Cambodian villagers have died and 120 others have been sickened after drinking water suspected to be contaminated with insecticide, a health official said Sunday. The dead and sickened villagers exhibited the same symptoms including breathing problems, dizziness, vomiting and chest pains, said the head of the Kratie Provincial Health Department, Chhneang Sivutha. He said villagers began getting sick on Thursday. Health authorities have collected water and food samples from the two villages and are awaiting laboratory results. The deputy provincial police chief, Chhim Sokhim, suspected rainwater from nearby farms that use insecticide had come into contact with a stream where villagers collect water used for drinking and cooking. Outbreaks of food and water poisoning are not uncommon in Cambodia, where health checks are rare and safety regulations lax.

From prison, Malaysia's Anwar helps reunite opposition

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian opposition icon Anwar Ibrahim can't vote in what he believes will be a "defining election" for his country on Wednesday but even from his prison cell has remained a political force to be reckoned with.

The firebrand politician's conviction in 2015 for what he and his supporters said were false allegations of sodomy fractured the alliance of opposition parties that under Anwar's leadership was threatening the ruling National Front's decades-long hold on power.

It was Anwar's second spell in prison and it seemed he'd finally been done in by dirty political tactics. Once a high flyer in the ruling party, in 1998 he was convicted of homosexual sodomy — a criminal offense in Muslim-majority Malaysia inherited from the British colonial era — and corruption following a power struggle with Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia's authoritarian prime minister for more than two decades.

Anwar, however, played an unexpected card. From prison he helped forge a new opposition alliance by ending the two-decade feud with his former persecutor-in-chief, Mahathir, who'd once called Anwar "morally unfit" to govern the country.

It was a hard but pragmatic decision, Anwar's eldest daughter, lawmaker Nurul Izzah Anwar, told The Associated Press.

Anwar, 70, is an "incorrigible optimist" who believes there must be sacrifices to bring about a change of government and badly needed reforms, she said.

"He was instrumental in galvanizing an eventual approval to get Mahathir to be part of our coalition," said Nurul Izzah. "He was the first to state that it's time for us to be actively playing our part to design the Malaysia that we want."

Mahathir, 92, now leads an opposition alliance that includes Anwar's party. They're campaigning to oust Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is mired in scandal, and end the National Front's unbroken 60-year rule.

Even with Mahathir, who is popular with Malaysia's Malay majority, the odds are stacked against the opposition. It won the popular vote in 2013 but the ruling party clung to a majority in Parliament because of an electoral system that gives more weight to Malay-dominated rural seats that traditionally support the government.

A popular Islamic student leader, Anwar joined the ruling Malay party in 1982, a year after Mahathir became prime minister. He quickly rose up the ranks, becoming finance minister in 1991 and deputy premier two years later. Anwar became the heir apparent to Mahathir but they fell out during the 1998 Asian financial crisis and Anwar was sacked.

He refused to go quietly, leading tens of thousands of demonstrators in street rallies in Kuala Lumpur demanding reforms before he was arrested. He was later produced in court with a black eye from a beating by the police chief. That black eye has become the logo of the People's Justice Party led by his wife and is now the symbol of the opposition challenge against Najib.

Anwar was freed in 2004 after Mahathir retired and cleared of the sodomy charges.

In 2008 elections, his opposition pact known as the People's Alliance made major inroads by depriving the National Front of a two-thirds majority in Parliament for the first time. In 2013, the National Front lost the popular vote, its worst result since independence from Britain in 1957. It currently holds 132 of 222 seats.

But in 2015, Anwar was imprisoned again after new allegations of sodomizing an aide that he and his supporters said was a government plot to crush the opposition.

"Authoritarian leaders always believe the best way to deal with dissidents is to jail them, but throughout history, it has always backfired," Anwar said at the time.

His opposition alliance broke up after its Islamist ally left. It regrouped as the Alliance of Hope but the pact was shaky due to infighting and the lack of a charismatic figure to hold it together day to day.

Mahathir's political comeback in 2016 provided the missing glue. Despite his advanced age, Mahathir was seen as the best chance for the opposition to win support from rural Malays.

The former prime minister was spurred out of retirement by the corruption scandal at 1MDB, a state fund that is being investigated by the U.S. and several other countries after associates of Najib allegedly stole and laundered $4.5 billion from it. The fund was set up by Najib in 2009 to promote economic but accumulated billions in debts.

World

Doctors reject Trump's 'war zone' comments on London crime

LONDON (AP)—Some British doctors and legislators reacted angrily Saturday to President Donald Trump's pro-gun comments at an NRA convention comparing a London hospital to a war zone because of knife crime.

Trump's provocative comments are expected to increase concerns about his planned first presidential visit to Britain on July 13.

Dr. Martin Griffiths, a surgeon at the Royal London Hospital, tweeted that he would be "happy to invite Mr. Trump" to visit his hospital and meet with London's mayor and police chief to learn how the city has reduced violent crime.

Dr. Karim Brohi, another Royal London surgeon, said Trump's position makes no sense.

"There is more we can all do to combat this violence, but to suggest guns are part of the solution is ridiculous," Brohi tweeted. "Gunshot wounds are at least twice as lethal as knife injuries and more difficult to repair."

At the NRA convention Friday in Dallas, Trump said Britain has tough gun laws but that one London hospital is awash with blood because of knife wounds.

"They don't have guns. They have knives and instead there's blood all over the floors of this hospital," Trump said. "They say it's as bad as a military war zone hospital ... knives, knives, knives."

Labour Party lawmaker Sarah Jones tweeted that Trump's speech was a disgrace.

"U.K. knife crime nowhere near your off-the-scale gun deaths," she said.

Trump spoke as London is experiencing an increase in knife-related violence.

At the NRA convention, Trump also suggested that a coordinated extremist attack on Paris in 2015 that claimed 130 lives would have been far less deadly if Parisians had been carrying guns to protect themselves.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian expressed his "firm disapproval" of Trump's remarks and vigorously defended France's gun controls.

"Free circulation of weapons in society does not constitute a rampart against terrorist attacks, to the contrary, it can facilitate ... this type of attack," he said in a statement Saturday.

The U.S. president plans a one-day stop in Britain as part of a working visit. He has been invited for a state visit to be hosted by Queen Elizabeth II, but no date has been set for that ceremonial event.

Trump has riled many Britons in the past by suggesting that Muslim extremists have made some British cities unsafe. He also drew criticism from Prime Minister Theresa May, a conservative, and other political leaders for retweeting anti-Muslim videos originally posted by one of the leaders of the far-right Britain First group.

Trump has criticized London's Metropolitan Police and Mayor Sadiq Khan, a Muslim, on several occasions.

AP

President Donald Trump signals to the press that he will come over to talk, as he leaves the White House for Dallas to address the National Rifle Association, Friday, May 4, 2018 in Washington.

Lebanon holds first elections in 9 years

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's polling stations opened Sunday for the first parliamentary elections in nine years, with people lining up early in the morning to take part in a vote that is fiercely contested between rival groups backed by regional and international powers.

Sunday's vote is taking place amid tight security, with army and police forces deployed near polling stations and on major intersections. Electoral campaigns have been tense as each group has mobilized its supporters, with fist fights and shootings occurring in several areas in recent weeks.

The main race is between a Western-backed coalition headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group. The vote also reflects regional tensions between Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia and Iran, which back the rival groups.

The vote is the first since Syria's war broke out in 2011. Hezbollah has sent thousands of fighters to back President Bashar Assad's forces, a move that has been harshly criticized by many Lebanese, mainly Sunni Muslims and Christians who see the group as pulling the country into regional conflicts.

The house's term was supposed to expire in 2013, but lawmakers have approved several extensions since then, citing security concerns linked to the spillover from Syria's war. Lebanese who support opposing sides in the war have clashed on a number of occasions, and Sunni extremists have carried out several bombings. The war next door driven more than a million Syrian refugees into Lebanon, straining the country's economy and infrastructure.

There are about 3.6 million eligible voters, and early results are expected after polling stations close at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT). Some 586 candidates, including 86 women, are running for the 128-seat parliament, which is equally divided between Muslims and Christians.

This year's vote is according to a new election law that is based on proportional representation, implemented for the first time since Lebanon's independence in 1943. Voters will choose one list of allied candidates, as well as a preferred candidate from among them.

In the past, the winning list took all the seats in the electoral district.

Hezbollah and its allies are likely to add more seats, while Hariri is likely to lose several. Some of his Sunni supporters see him as being too soft on Hezbollah, and the billionaire businessman has also faced criticism after laying off scores of employees from his companies in Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

Still, Hariri will most likely be named to form a national unity Cabinet after the vote. Rival sides can hardly govern effectively without each other, and are expected to recreate the unity government that currently exists, which includes Hezbollah.

The vote comes a week after Lebanese living overseas voted in 39 countries around the world for the first time ever.

WORLD BRIEFS

France slams Trump for remarks on guns and Paris attacks

PARIS (AP)—France is sternly rejecting U.S. President Donald Trump's argument that if Parisians had more guns they could have stopped the deadly 2015 extremist attacks on the French capital. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian expressed his "firm disapproval" of Trump's remarks and vigorously defended France's gun controls. In a statement Saturday, Le Drian said gun violence statistics "do not lead us to reconsider France's choice on this issue." Gun violence death rates are much higher in the U.S. Le Drian continued: "Free circulation of weapons in society does not constitute a rampart against terrorist attacks, to the contrary, it can facilitate ... this type of attack." Islamic State attackers killed 130 people in Paris' Bataclan concert hall, cafes and the national stadium. Trump spoke at a National Rifle Association meeting.

Migrants block Greek highway to protest conditions in camp

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—About 200 refugees and migrants have blocked a section of a highway near the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki to protest conditions in their camp.

The protest, which lasted about an hour Saturday evening and ended when riot police appeared, began after tents in the camp were flooded by a flash flood that hit the city.

The camp, on the site of a former army barracks, houses refugees and other migrants in sturdy containers, but tents had been hastily erected to accommodate a rising flow of refugees and migrants entering Greece from neighboring Turkey this spring. The flow has exacerbated already overcrowded conditions in many refugee camps.

Mexico: 9 found dead in back of truck in Guerrero state

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Nine men were found murdered in the back of a small cargo truck Saturday in the troubled southern state of Guerrero, Mexican authorities reported. State prosecutors said in a statement that the men were apparently kidnapped Thursday and reported missing the following night. The truck was discovered Saturday morning along a highway between the state capital, Chilpancingo, and the city of Tixtla. Prosecutors said the men lived in Tixtla and Chilpancingo and used the vehicle, which was registered to one of the victims, to sell possibly ill-gotten food products. Guerrero, which has one of the highest homicide rates of Mexico's 31 states plus the capital district, is home to opium poppy plantations and splintered gangs at war with each other for control of the drug trade and extortion rackets.

Body of missing German cyclist believed found in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Authorities in southern Mexico say they have located what they believe to be the body of a missing German cyclist near where his Polish cycling companion was found dead a day earlier. Arturo Lievano is prosecutor for the Selva District in Chiapas state. He says in a video statement posted online Friday night that the presumed remains of Holger Franz Hagenbusch were found along with articles of clothing belonging to the German man. The body was discovered about 200 yards (meters) downhill from that of Krzysztof Chmielewski, near the bottom of a 600-foot (200-meter) drop-off. The site is located next to a narrow road that runs from San Cristobal de las Casas to Ocosingo. The deaths are believed to have been accidental.

Focus

AP REVIEW: More than 30 mishaps from armed adults at schools

By RYAN J. FOLEY and LARRY FENN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012 file photo, Clark Aposhian, president of the Utah Shooting Sport Council, holds a plastic gun during a concealed weapons training session for 200 Utah teachers in West Valley City, Utah. AP

They are the "good guys with guns" the National Rifle Association says are needed to protect students from shooters: a school police officer, a teacher who moonlights in law enforcement, a veteran sheriff.

Yet in a span of 48 hours in March, the three were responsible for gun safety lapses that put students in danger.

The school police officer accidentally fired his gun in his Virginia office, sending a bullet through a wall into a middle school classroom. The teacher was demonstrating firearm safety in California when he mistakenly put a round in the ceiling, injuring three students who were hit by falling debris. And the sheriff left a loaded service weapon in a locker room at a Michigan middle school, where a sixth-grader found it.

All told, an Associated Press review of news reports collected by the nonprofit Gun Violence Archive revealed more than 30 publicly reported mishaps since 2014 involving firearms brought onto school grounds by law enforcement officers or educators. Guns went off by mistake, were fired by curious or unruly students, and were left unattended in bathrooms and other locations.

"If this can happen with a highly trained police officer, why would we give teachers guns?" interim superintendent Lois Berlin of the Alexandria, Virginia, school system asked after the incident involving the officer whose accidental discharge put a bullet through a wall at George Washington Middle School. He was placed on leave and is under investigation.

Amid a nationwide push to arm teachers or add more police officers and armed guards, the AP review suggests that doing so will almost certainly have unintended consequences. The accidents are rare, but the actual number is probably higher because schools are not required to report them. And they have frightened students, outraged parents, prompted disciplinary and criminal investigations and left at least nine people injured.

Some insurance companies have refused to cover schools that allow non-law enforcement personnel to be armed. And many school employees have said in surveys that they would feel less safe if more of their colleagues were carrying weapons.

Nevertheless, calls to encourage districts to add more armed educators and officers have intensified since the Feb. 14 shooting rampage at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 students and educators dead.

Speaking Friday to the NRA convention in Dallas, President Donald Trump called for allowing trained teachers to carry concealed weapons in schools, along with more armed security guards.

He said the best deterrent to would-be school shooters is "the knowledge that their attack will end their life and end in total failure."

He added, "When they know that, they're not going in."

In March, the White House pledged to provide aid to state and local agencies to provide firearms training for school personnel and to recruit more veterans and retired officers into education. At least a dozen states have considered bills this year that would encourage more armed officers, security guards or teachers in public schools.

Supporters of allowing more school personnel to carry weapons argue that proper training would prevent such incidents.

"It's usually the person behind the gun who determines the outcome," said Kansas state Sen. Dennis Pyle, a Republican and supporter of a stalled bill that would have prohibited insurance companies from charging "unfair discriminatory" rates to schools that arm their staff.

A representative of the NRA declined to comment on the AP's findings.

Sean Simpson is among the educators who have said publicly they would be willing to have firearms training, but the Marjory Stoneman Douglas science teacher recently had his own mishap. He was charged after leaving his loaded handgun in a public restroom at a crowded beach pier in April. An intoxicated homeless man found the weapon and fired it before Simpson snatched it back, authorities said.

The National Association of School Resource Officers has raised concerns about allowing teachers to be armed, saying they may not have the training to use guns effectively during a high-stress situation or to keep them secure. The group is pushing for an officer in every public school instead.

Executive Director Mo Canady, a former school resource officer in Alabama, said he believes accidental discharges and other mistakes involving school officers' guns are "much more rare than people might think."

"When you've got 20,000 officers in schools across the country, things can happen. There's no perfect situation," he said.

Earlier this school year, a fifth-grader in St. Paul, Minnesota, managed to pull the trigger on a gun in an officer's holster, firing a bullet into the floor. The same day in Florida, a parent discovered a school resource officer's gun in a faculty bathroom. A deputy's gun went off in Michigan last fall during a struggle with a high school student.

Parent Rashmi Pappu, who has two daughters at the Virginia school where a bullet went through a wall and into a refrigerator, said she was stunned by the incident because she wasn't aware the school's officer was armed.

"I want to know why he was even handling his gun in the school and what the procedure is," she said. "I just felt that in a safe school environment, this is ridiculous."

The same day as the Virginia incident, Dennis Alexander was teaching his criminal justice class at a high school in Seaside, California, when he pointed a gun at the ceiling as he checked to make sure it was not loaded. The weapon went off. At least one of the students injured has hired a law firm and is considering legal action.

Alexander resigned his jobs as a teacher and reserve police officer. He also apologized, as did Michael Main, the Isabella County, Michigan, sheriff whose gun was found in a gym locker room where he'd left it while changing uniforms.

"I have worked diligently my entire career to protect people, especially our youth," Main said in a statement. "However, I have failed to do just that, and I'm devastated with my lack of accountability in this matter."

In this Sept. 11, 2014 file photo, students line up to go back inside after recess at Westbrook Elementary School in Taylorsville. AP

Health & Wellness

DREAMSTIME

Standing instead of sitting for six hours a day could help people lose weight over the long term.

Standing several hours a day could help you lose weight, Mayo Clinic research finds

Standing instead of sitting for six hours a day could help people lose weight over the long term, according to a Mayo Clinic study published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology.

In recent years, sedentary behavior, such as sitting, has been blamed for contributing to the obesity epidemic, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, says Francisco Lopez-Jimenez, M.D., senior author and chair of preventive cardiology at Mayo Clinic. Population-based studies report that, in the U.S., adults sit more than seven hours a day. The range across European countries is 3.2 to 6.8 hours of daily sitting time.

The study examined whether standing burns more calories than sitting in adults in the first systematic review and meta-analysis (combining data from multiple studies) to evaluate the difference. The researchers analyzed 46 studies with 1,184 participants. Participants, on average, were 33 years old; 60 percent were men; and the average weight was 143.3 pounds.

"Overall, our study shows that, when you put all the available scientific evidence together, standing accounts for more calories burned than sitting," says Farzane Saeidifard, M.D., first author and cardiology fellow at Mayo Clinic.

The researchers found that standing burned 0.15 calories (kcals) per minute more than sitting. By substituting standing for sitting for six hours a day, a 143.3-pound adult would expend an extra 54 calories (kcals) in six hours. Assuming no increase in food intake, that would equate to 5.5 pounds in one year and 22 pounds over four years.

"Standing for long periods of time for many adults may seem unmanageable, especially those who have desk jobs, but, for the person who sits for 12 hours a day, cutting sitting time to half would give great benefits," Dr. Lopez-Jimenez says. The authors acknowledge that more research is needed to show if replacing standing with sitting is effective and whether there are long-term health implications of standing for long periods.

In recent years, moderate to vigorous physical activities in daily life have been encouraged in efforts to maintain and lose weight, and reduce the risk of heart disease, he says. But individuals cite barriers, such as time, motivation or access to facilities. Non Exercise Activity Thermogenesis, known as NEAT, a concept developed by James Levine, M.D., Ph.D. and Michael Jensen, M.D.—both Mayo Clinic endocrinologists and obesity researchers—focuses on the daily calories a person burns while doing normal daily activities, not exercising.

"Standing is one of components of NEAT, and the results of our study support this theory," Dr. Lopez-Jimenez says. "The idea is to work into our daily routines some lower-impact activities that can improve our long-term health."

Of note, the researchers found that calories burned between standing and sitting is about twice as high in men as in women. This likely reflects the effect of greater muscle mass in men on the amount of calories burned, because calories burned is proportional to the muscle mass activated while standing, researchers found. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Healthy Living

A good start

Eating a healthy breakfast, such as the oatmeal, berries, nuts and yogurt shown below, has many benefits.

Healthy breakfast eaters are less likely to ....

- Become obese
- Develop Type 2 diabetes
- Develop cardiovascular diseases

Source: American Heart Association, TNS Photo Service

This advertorial is sponsored by

Tan Holdings

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

By BARTON GOLDSMITH
Tribune News Service

Dr. Barton Goldsmith, a psychotherapist in Westlake Village, Calif., is the author of "The Happy Couple: How to Make Happiness a Habit One Little Loving Thing at a Time." Follow his daily insights on Twitter at @BartonGoldsmith

Relationships: 10 ways to make life better

Do you ever feel like you aren't getting enough out of life? By doing a few simple things, you can brighten your days and make your life a more fulfilling place to be.

1 **Get outside more often.** It has been said that if you want to live a long life, you should spend as much time outdoors as you can while doing things that are not too physically stressful. Taking a half-hour walk every day will help you avoid depression and decrease any anxiety you may be feeling.

2 **Trust your gut.** Tune into your own feelings, look at them, and work on understanding where the pain is coming from. All of the answers you need are there inside you.

3 **Make a new friend.** You may think you have enough friends already or that you don't have time to make new friends, but there is always room to add a positive person into your life. I'm not saying go online and look for friendship there. The idea is to get closer to people you may already know or see on a regular basis.

4 **Get involved in your community.** It's hard to open a paper and not see the charity events going on close by. If you have the desire to help out, act on it. You will make a difference in the lives of others, and you will feel better, too.

5 **Slow down.** We rush so much of the time, and it's understandable with all that's going on around us. But if you relax for a moment here and there, just to take in your surroundings and what you are doing, it will make you breathe easier and help you enjoy whatever you are doing more.

6 **Appreciate what you have.** We all want things, and that's good, but when not getting what you want when you want it makes you sad and angry, you may be asking for too much too soon. Look around at your life and focus on the good stuff, see what you have, and don't focus on what you lack.

7 **Try a new activity.** Take a class, go some place you've never been, or create a new space in your home. Taking on hobbies and activities can be enjoyable, and it gives you the opportunity to meet new people and experience new things that will enrich your life.

8 **Write your story.** Many people are tracing their family histories online these days, and it's a fun hobby. You can also research and write your own story. It may not become a hit movie, but it will give you a fresh perspective on your life and allow you to remember things that you may have forgotten. If writing an autobiography is too daunting, try keeping a journal. Then your story can write itself.

9 **Make that apology.** If there is someone in your life to whom you need to say, "I'm sorry," go ahead and do it. Letting go of resentments and owning up to your mistakes will give you more room to enjoy your time on the planet. It may also help you connect with a long lost friend.

10 **Plan some fun.** Happiness comes from moving toward what you want, not from getting it, so you need to have new things to look forward to. Now that summer is almost over, it's a good time to start planning for next year or your next vacation.

If you are just sitting around and letting the world pass you by, it's time to get up and start moving. Getting the most out of life is a matter of putting one foot in front of the other and making it happen.

Life & Style

'Infinity War' to set record, fastest to surpass $1 billion

NEW YORK (AP)—"Avengers: Infinity War" is poised to set a record for fastest film to rake in $1 billion in business.

The Walt Disney Co. said Saturday that the Marvel superhero saga had earned just under $975 million in global box office through Friday. Since the film earned nearly $70 million on Friday alone, the studio is confident it will pass the billion-dollar mark on Saturday, in 11 days.

The previous record of fastest time for a movie to make a $1 billion was 12 days for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

The star-stuffed "Infinity Wars" features Robert Downey Jr., Benedict Cumberbatch, Scarlett Johansson, Mark Ruffalo, and Chadwick Boseman, whose "Black Panther" movie has made more than $1.3 billion and remains in theaters.

Film Academy expels Cosby, Polanski

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The organization that bestows the Academy Awards said Thursday that it has expelled two prominent members convicted of sexual offenses, Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski, from its membership.

It's the first major decision since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences implemented revised standards of conduct for its over 8,400 members following its expulsion of disgraced mogul Harvey Weinstein in October. In Polanski's case, the expulsion comes more than 40 years after he was accused of raping a 13-year-old girl he plied with champagne and Quaaludes during a photo shoot, and 15 years after he won a best director Oscar.

Polanski's attorney Harland Braun said Thursday the decision "blindsided" the director, who learned of his expulsion from media reports.

Braun accused the academy of failing to follow its rules and give Polanski's team a chance to respond to efforts to expel him. He said he and Polanski's agent will ask for the director to be reinstated next week and they want a hearing before a new vote on his membership is taken.

The academy wrote in a statement that its board of governors met Tuesday night and voted on Polanski and Cosby's status in accordance with the new standards. Polanski's membership dates back to 1969, and Cosby's to 1996.

The organization's rules state that its board of governors is entitled to enforce its standards of conduct, and "any member of the Academy may be suspended or expelled for cause." Suspension or expulsion requires two-thirds approval of the 55-member board.

Polanski, who won a best director Oscar for 2002's "The Pianist," remains a fugitive after pleading guilty to unlawful sex with a minor in 1977 and fleeing the United States the following year. Cosby was convicted last week of sexual assault in Pennsylvania, for drugging and molesting Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion 14 years ago.

A spokesman for Cosby did not return a message seeking comment Thursday.

In its statement, the film academy said its board "continues to encourage ethical standards that require members to uphold the Academy's values of respect for human dignity."

Adopted in December, the code of conduct stipulates that the academy is no place for "people who abuse their status, power or influence in a manner that violates standards of decency."

The academy's board may now suspend or expel those who violate the code of conduct or who "compromise the integrity" of the academy.

Before Weinstein, only one person is thought to have been expelled from the academy: Carmine Caridi, a character actor who had his membership revoked in 2004 for lending DVD screeners of films in contention for Oscars that ended up online.

The film academy came under intense scrutiny following Weinstein's expulsion and the rise of the #MeToo movement for some of its active members, like Cosby, Polanski and Mel Gibson. And since then, many others have faced new allegations like Kevin Spacey, Brett Ratner, John Lasseter and Paul Haggis. It even became late-night fodder for people like John Oliver.

Because its members are not made public, occasionally incorrect assumptions are made about who are part of the organization. Woody Allen, for one, is not.

Polanski has been one of the more divisive members of the organization for years. At the 2003 ceremony, Polanski's win—his first—received a standing ovation. He was not in attendance. He'd previously been nominated for writing his adaptation of "Rosemary's Baby," and directing "Chinatown" and "Tess."

Swift visits 8-year-old fan in burn unit

PHOENIX (AP)—Taylor Swift surprised an 8-year-old girl at the Phoenix hospital where she has been recovering from devastating burns.

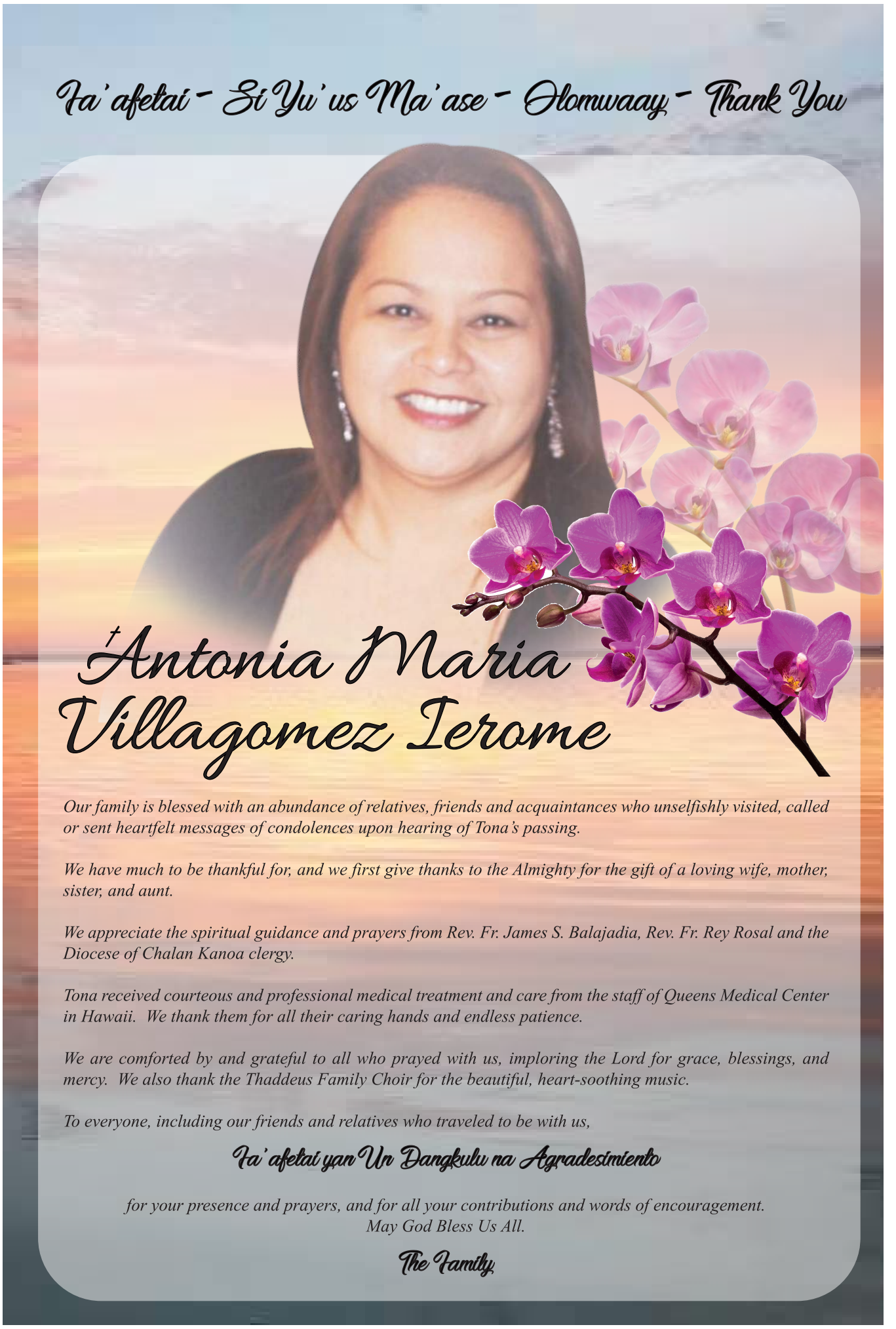
The Arizona Republic reports the pop star showed up unannounced Saturday at the Arizona Burn Center to see Isabella McCune.

The girl's family made a video on Wednesday of her asking for Swift to visit because she couldn't leave the hospital for the singer's concert next week.

Swift stayed for about 20 minutes. She signed autographs and gifted Isabella with a bag of merchandise from her concert tour.

The McCune family says Isabella suffered third-degree burns over 65 percent of her body when a fire erupted at a neighborhood party on St. Patrick's Day in March.

The girl says hugs sometimes hurt but asked for one from Swift.


Fa'afetai - Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Olomwaay - Thank You
†Antonia Maria Villagomez Ierome
Our family is blessed with an abundance of relatives, friends and acquaintances who unselfishly visited, called or sent heartfelt messages of condolences upon hearing of Tona's passing.
We have much to be thankful for, and we first give thanks to the Almighty for the gift of a loving wife, mother, sister, and aunt.
We appreciate the spiritual guidance and prayers from Rev. Fr. James S. Balajadia, Rev. Fr. Rey Rosal and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa clergy.
Tona received courteous and professional medical treatment and care from the staff of Queens Medical Center in Hawaii. We thank them for all their caring hands and endless patience.
We are comforted by and grateful to all who prayed with us, imploring the Lord for grace, blessings, and mercy. We also thank the Thaddeus Family Choir for the beautiful, heart-soothing music.
To everyone, including our friends and relatives who traveled to be with us,
Fa'afetai yan Un Dangkulu na Agradesimiento
for your presence and prayers, and for all your contributions and words of encouragement.
May God Bless Us All.
The Family

Gigi Hadid, Vogue Italia apologize for darkened skin tone

MILAN (AP)—Gigi Hadid and Vogue Italia have both apologized for the May Vogue Italia cover that showed the model with a dark skin tone, a distortion that unleashed a social media backlash and underlined the lack of diversity in the fashion industry.

In a post on Instagram on Thursday, Hadid said diversity in the industry needs to be addressed and that she does not want "to take opportunities away from anyone else."

The cover shot by Steven Klein showed the normally blonde Hadid with dark hair and heavily bronzed skin, wearing a Dolce & Gabbana sequined legging ensemble with matching tiara. Inside, Hadid poses in beachwear in the spread titled "High Voltage."

Hadid said the photo shoot that also included digital editing of the photo, "was not executed correctly" and agreed that the concerns raised were "valid."

Social media posts decried the dark skin tone, many likening it to the blackface minstrels of the 19th century that promoted racial stereotypes. Others pointed out that Vogue Italia under its previous editor, the late Franca Sozzani, was a prominent advocate for racial diversity in fashion, notably with its famed "All Black" cover in 2008.

"I want to address this for those who were offended by the editing/retouch/coloring of the cover. Please know that things would have been different if my control of the situation was different," the model said.

"Regardless, I want to apologize because I never want to diminish these concerns."

Vogue Italia said Klein's "vision was to create a beachwear-themed story with a stylized bronzing effect," and that "throughout its history, Vogue Italia has respected and encouraged the creative viewpoints of commissioned photographers."

But the fashion magazine added that it understood the issues it ignited among its readers.

"We sincerely apologize if we have caused any offense."

No Nobel literature prize this year

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Following weeks of internal bickering, sex-abuse allegations and a financial investigation by police, the body that hands out the prestigious Nobel Prize in Literature announced Friday that no prize will be awarded this year.

Instead, the academy said two Nobel Prizes in Literature will be handed out next year, the 2018 prize and the 2019 prize. The decision was made Thursday at a weekly meeting of the Swedish Academy in Stockholm on the grounds that the group was in too deep a crisis to choose a Nobel winner properly.

"The present crisis of confidence places high demands on a long-term and robust work for change," said Anders Olsson, the academy's permanent secretary. "We find it necessary to commit time to recovering public confidence in the Academy before the next laureate can be announced."

It will be the first time since 1949 that the prestigious award has been delayed. Last year, Japanese-born British novelist Kazuo Ishiguro won the prize.

"It has occurred before. This year we're doing it because we've had a very, very unusual situation, with conflicts in the academy and a weakened academy in terms of the number of members," Olsson told Sweden's TT news agency.

The internal feud within the academy—which only hands out one of the Nobel prizes—was triggered by an abuse scandal linked to Jean-Claude Arnault, a major cultural figure in Sweden who is also the husband of poet Katarina Frostenson, an academy member.

In Celebration of her New Life

†Dolores Masga Agulto

Lovingly known as Dodo/Ling

Born to Life on: April 23, 1950 Called to Eternal Life on May 02, 2018

In her New Life, she now joins her;
Husband: †Jesus Barcinas Agulto
Daughter: †Katherine Agulto DLGuerrero
Grandson: †Alvin Agulto DLGuerrero
Parents: †Jose Hocog/†Maria Acosta Masga
Parents-In-Law: †Thomas C./ †Ana Barcinas Agulto
Brother: †Francisco Acosta Masga
Sister: †Francisca Masga Reyes
Sister/Brother in Law: †Dolores A./ †Eloy S. Inos, †Modesta A. Bartolo

Her Spirit and Memories will Forever Live in the Hearts of Her:
Children and Families:
MaryAnn A. & Edward Flores (Audrea & Children, Argernon & Children, April & Children, Austin)
Joseph M./Frances C. Agulto (Jesse/Monique & Children, Thomas & Child, Alice)
Clarissa A./Vincent Torres (Margarita & Child, Vanavie & Children, Rosannie & Children, Chelsea, Camille & Children, Vincent C., Kimberly A./Jorge Garcia Bermudez, Vincent A., Vincent M. II)
Eleanor A./Jesse R. Aguon (Jesse James/Ritalyn & Child, Keilani Kimberly, Kalea Rae)
Zeno DLGuerrero/Tina Sakisat (Crystal & Children, Jared, Francisco, Tasha, Zeno Jr., Bella)
Aileen M. Agulto/John (Peter, Kiana, Katherine, Keala, Kaleb)
Gerald M./ Evelyn M. Agulto (Gerald Jesse Jr., Thomas, Justin, Cherisse, Joshua)
Sherlina M./Jesse Tenorio (Kateleen/Eric, Jesse Jack Jr., Jessherl)
Ernestina M. Agulto/Randy (Special Friend) (Joseph Jude)

Reared Son: Nick Masga Reyes/Mary (Amber, Chelsey, Niko, Napu)

Brothers/Sisters/In-Law:
Jesus A. Masga/Hua & Family
Jose A. Reyes/Darlene & Family
Nicolasa S. Masga & Family
Jose B./Francine Agulto & family
Pedro Bartolo & Children

She is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces, God-Children and Close friends.

Daily Masses of Intention are offered at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church, followed by Rosary after Mass.

On Thursday May 10, 2018, her remains will be escorted from CHCC Chapel at 7:30 am to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to a Peaceful Rest.

Please Join Us in Prayers

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay!

Children, Grandchildren & Family

Author Junot Diaz withdraws from writer festival amid sex allegations

SYDNEY (AP) — Author Junot Diaz has withdrawn from a writers' festival in Australia after fellow writers accused him of past sexual misconduct and misogyny, organizers said Saturday, adding that a moment of reckoning had arrived for the Pulitzer Prize winner.

Diaz was confronted Friday in a Q&A session at the Sydney Writers' Festival by author Zinzi Clemmons. She asked Diaz about his recent New Yorker essay detailing his sexual assault as an 8-year-old boy and then asked him why he had put her in a vulnerable position when she was a student six years ago.

Clemmons, who penned the coming-of-age novel "What We Lose," later tweeted that when she was a 26-year-old graduate student, Diaz cornered her and forcibly kissed her after she invited him to speak at a workshop.

Subsequently, writers Carmen Maria Machado and Monica Byrne tweeted they had also been subjected to inappropriate and aggressive behavior from Diaz.

In a statement Saturday, the Sydney Writers' Festival said that following the allegations, Diaz had pulled out of his remaining scheduled appearances at the festival. It said organizers were committed to providing a "supportive and safe environment for our authors and audiences alike."

The statement added: "In his recent New Yorker essay, Mr. Diaz wrote, 'Eventually the past finds you.' As for so many in positions of power, the moment to reckon with the consequences of past behavior has arrived."

Diaz, who won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," told the New York Times through his literary agent that he takes responsibility for his past.

"That is the reason I made the decision to tell the truth of my (childhood) rape and its damaging aftermath," he said. "This conversation is important and must continue."

Stormy Daniels returns to strip club

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Storm Rolls Back In"—and we're not talking about the weather.

That's how a Long Island strip club advertised Stormy Daniels' return this weekend to the venue where the porn actress first appeared in February.

Since then, Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford, has taken center stage in the nation's tumultuous political life. She says she had a sexual encounter with Donald Trump before he became president. And Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, paid her $130,000 to keep silent before the 2016 election.

Employees at the Gossip club in the hamlet of Melville told The Associated Press that she had two performances on Friday and two more coming up on Saturday.

The woman whose face appears daily on television arrived in an SUV, flanked by bodyguards as she walked in briskly. Her attire did nothing to signal that she'd signed up for shows at a strip club: black jeans, a gray T-shirt, Vans Old Skool sneakers and a Louis Vuitton bag.

The Gossip entrance fee is $20 for men. Women enter for free.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Caitlyn Jenner to deliver diversity lecture

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Channel 4 says that Caitlyn Jenner will deliver its annual diversity lecture at the House of Commons. The 68-year-old reality television star, author and Olympic gold medalist formerly known as Bruce, revealed in 2015 that she is transgender and has become a woman. It is the third lecture in the series following actors Idris Elba and Riz Ahmed. Channel 4 says the lecture's aim is to raise awareness and stimulate debate on diversity. The lecture marks the start of two weeks of programs intended to open up debate about gender. Lawmakers will be invited to attend the event on May 9 in the Churchill Room.

Good Day Sunshine: Paul McCartney award at Buckingham Palace

LONDON (AP)—Paul McCartney paid tribute to his parents after a ceremony making him a Companion of Honor at Buckingham Palace. The former Beatle was joined by wife Nancy Shevell at the Friday ceremony on a sparkling spring day. He said in a written statement that he saw the award "as a huge honor for me and my family and I think of how proud my Liverpool mum and dad would have been to see this." The 75-year-old songwriter, bass player and singer received a knighthood 21 years ago. Bandmate Ringo Starr, the Beatles' drummer, was made a knight earlier this year. The other two Beatles, John Lennon and George Harrison, have both died. The Liverpool band shot to worldwide fame in the early 1960s.

Collector sues to block daughter from selling Basquiat work

NEW YORK (AP)—A prominent art collector has filed a lawsuit against the auction house Sotheby's to block his daughter from selling a masterpiece by Jean-Michel Basquiat that's worth an estimated $30 million. Hubert Neumann's lawsuit, filed Thursday in state supreme court in Manhattan, seeks to prevent his daughter Belinda Neumann from selling Basquiat's 1983 painting "Flesh and Spirit." Neumann's wife, Dolores Ormandy Neumann, signed a will before her death in 2016 leaving most of her estate to Belinda Neumann and disinheriting her husband. Hubert Neumann, 86, is disputing the will, which he alleges is invalid because it was executed while his wife was receiving serious medical treatment.

Meghan Markle's parents to visit queen, have wedding roles

LONDON (AP)—Meghan Markle's parents will meet with Queen Elizabeth II and other royals before her May 19 wedding to Prince Harry and will have special roles in their daughter's wedding, a palace spokesman said Friday. At the wedding, the royal couple also plan to honor the memory of the late Princess Diana, Harry's mother, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997. Officials didn't predict the weather—springtime in England can be glorious or horrid, sometimes on the same day—but they outlined plans for a celebration designed to spread from the privileged environs of Windsor Castle throughout Britain and the world, via television and the internet.

Travolta to get Cinema Icon Award at Cannes Film Festival

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For John Travolta, "icon" will be the word at the Cannes Film Festival. Trade publication Variety said Friday that Travolta will receive its inaugural Cinema Icon Award at this month's festival in France. Steven Gaydos, Variety vice president and executive editor, said in a statement that Travolta's long career, popularity and honors "splendidly qualify" him for the recognition. Travolta received an Oscar nomination for his star-making turn in 1977's "Saturday Night Fever" and another for 1994's "Pulp Fiction." "Grease," released in 1978 and starring Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, is among the biggest movie musical hits ever. Travolta will receive the Cinema Icon Award on May 15, following the premiere at Cannes of his new film, "Gotti."

Cynthia Nixon tax returns: $1.5M income, $53K in donations

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—"Sex and the City" star and New York gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon released tax returns on Friday showing she and her wife had an income of $1.5 million last year and gave about $53,000 to charity. The Democratic candidate released the returns after initially filing an extension on her taxes. Nixon's finances are complicated and involve her private corporation, named the Fickle Mermaid Corp., as well as a family foundation and income from investments, royalties and residual payments for television and film. Nixon paid state income taxes in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Utah, Illinois and California. Most of the income received by Nixon and her wife, Christine Marinoni, in 2017 was derived from investments, royalties and Nixon's work as an actor.

Alcoholics Anonymous founding document sells for $2.4M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The founding document of Alcoholics Anonymous, known to adherents as the "Big Book," sold at auction Saturday for $2.4 million to billionaire and Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay. The auction house Profiles in History announced the sale of the manuscript with handwritten notes from the group's founding fathers. Irsay told The Associated Press he plans to build a special display for the manuscript and display it for several months a year at Alcoholics Anonymous' headquarters in New York. He says he attempted to buy the manuscript when it was up for auction several years ago, and he is thrilled at the opportunity to share it publicly. Irsay said he considers himself a steward for the manuscript, which he said he may also send out on tour so it can be seen by more people.

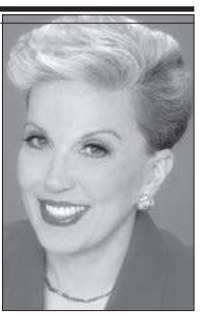
ON DRY LAND AP

Models present creations during Chanel's Cruise 2018/2019 fashion collection presented in Paris, Thursday, May 3, 2018. A 330-foot (100-meter) cruise liner—with steaming funnels and gangplanks—was the decor for Chanel's annual Cruise collection inside the city's Grand Palais Thursday night in Paris in which designer Karl Lagerfeld created a spectacle worthy of a James Cameron movie set.

Best friend's invitation loses appeal as details are revealed

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend's best friend asked if we could drive an hour to visit them and their children on Saturday. I've met her twice, and we have chatted a bit online. I have met her fiance only once.

My boyfriend just told me she wants to take off with him to a bar for a birthday drink—or two—while I stay at home with her fiance. When I heard about it, I said I am not OK with being excluded. He understood and agreed they would take a walk around the block instead.

When I texted her saying I didn't want to be ditched, she insisted that I need to share him, and her fiance is looking forward to getting to know me better. She also tried to guilt me, saying it's her birthday weekend.

I think she's rude. I've never been to their house, and I'm not friends with her fiance. When you invite a couple over, I believe the expectation is to socialize as a group, not break off. I also think it should have been a request versus something I was told is happening. If she wants to spend time with my boyfriend, they should make separate plans. Can you please weigh in on the etiquette?

UNEXPECTED PLANS IN THE EAST

DEAR UNEXPECTED: You appear to be the "new kid on the block," while your boyfriend, his best friend and the fiance have known one another a long time. The purpose of getting together is for all concerned to have an enjoyable time. If you wouldn't feel comfortable in the situation as it was described, you shouldn't have been pressured to agree, regardless of whether it's her birthday weekend. She was wrong to do that, and yes, it was rude.

DEAR ABBY: My son was in a serious accident, which left him with a head injury as well as other physical problems. Since then he has also had anxiety attacks, paranoia and a profound dislike of me. We went from a close relationship to a shattered one, and I don't know why. He has said horrible things about me to other family members, none of which are true. His wife is clueless. She has exacerbated the situation by viewing this as "his side vs. my side."

My other children are angry at them both and want to just ignore him. They stay in contact with him because I beg them not to abandon him. Unfortunately, due to confidentiality regulations, I am unable to speak to his doctors. We have had no contact for three months, and I won't initiate it. I love him and this is breaking my heart. Please advise me.

UNHAPPY MAMA IN THE WEST

DEAR UNHAPPY MAMA: My heart goes out to you. I can only imagine how pained and helpless you must feel because of your son's traumatic brain injury. I wish I had a magic wand and could make this unfortunate situation go away, but I do have a suggestion. Although HIPAA regulations prevent you from speaking with his doctors, nothing prevents you from writing them a letter if you think there's something they need to know.

You'd be wise to seek professional counseling for yourself now. No one can predict whether your son will regain his emotional balance, and it's important you have all the emotional support you need for your loss. In a very real sense, it IS a loss, the loss of the son you knew. A licensed therapist can give you insight on how to move forward.

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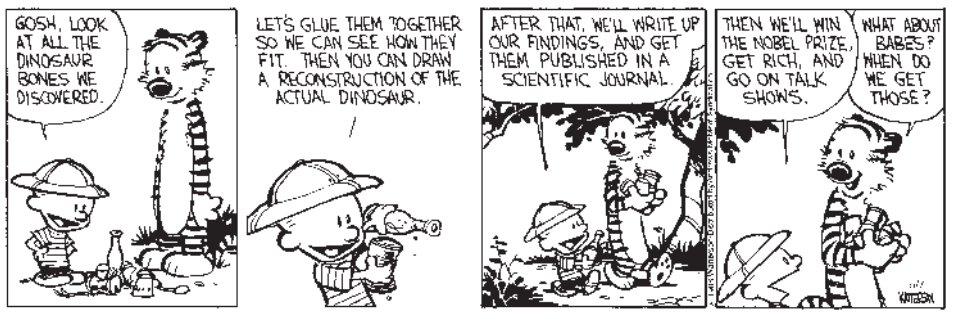
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GOSH, LOOK AT ALL THE DINOSAUR BONES WE DISCOVERED.
LET'S GLUE THEM TOGETHER SO WE CAN SEE HOW THEY FIT. THEN YOU CAN DRAW A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ACTUAL DINOSAUR.
AFTER THAT, WE'LL WRITE UP OUR FINDINGS, AND GET THEM PUBLISHED IN A SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL.
THEN WE'LL WIN THE NOBEL PRIZE, GET RICH, AND GO ON TALK SHOWS.
WHAT ABOUT BABES? WHEN DO WE GET THOSE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THIS IS INTERESTING...
THEY SAY THE KEY TO LONGEVITY IS TRYING NEW THINGS
I AGREE...
ASSUMING THAT ICE CREAM FLAVORS COUNT
JIM DAVIS 5-7

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHATCHA WATCHING?
"FIXER UPPER."
OH, NO. NO, NO, NO. WHAT DO I DO? DON'T PANIC, LAURA.
I COULD SHUT OFF THE ELECTRICITY... OR... OR...
THEN SHE CHANGED THE CHANNEL AND RAN AWAY WITH THE REMOTE.
CLASSIC FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT RESPONSE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?
IT'S A LETTER TO THE COMPANY THAT MADE OUR LAWN TRACTOR.
I'M NOT BUYING THEIR MOWERS ANYMORE, SO I'M LETTING THEM KNOW IT'S OVER BETWEEN US.
SO, YOU'RE WRITING...
A JOHN DEERE LETTER

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Napkin's place
4 Without — in the world
9 Honey holder
12 Sheepish remark
13 "Don Juan" poet
14 World Cup cheer
15 Fat avoider of rhyme
17 Arrest
18 Always, in verse
19 Poolside structure
21 1997 Demi Moore film
24 Hastens
25 Exist
26 "For shame!"
28 Eye surgery
31 "The Martian" actor Damon
33 Use a straw
35 "I did it!"
36 Ruhr Valley city
38 Casual shirt
40 Texter's chuckle
41 Svelte
43 Irritate
45 Boat basin
47 Employ
48 — -de-France
49 Monster.com activity
54 Cagers' gp.
55 Popular typeface
56 "— Lazy River"
57 Weir
58 Opera legend Beverly
59 Has permission

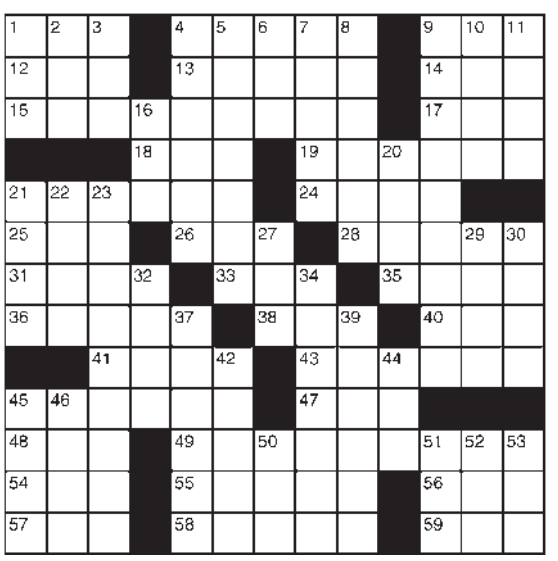
DOWN

1 JFK's veep
2 Bond rating
3 Lobbying org.
4 Missing
5 Cone-bearing tree
6 Schedule abbr.
7 Pesky crawler
8 Involve
9 Vaccine pioneer
10 Arkin or Alda
11 Country's McEntire
16 Mauna —
20 Tempo
21 Up for it
22 Nest egg choices
23 High-altitude wind
27 DIY buy
29 Pedestal occupant
30 Hardy cabbage
32 Actress Hatcher
34 Quick scan
37 Japanese warriors
39 Art props
42 New Zealand native
44 PBS funder
45 Behave
46 Goya's duchess
50 Cartoonist Keane
51 Pirates' potation
52 Tax prep pro
53 Horse chow

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	U	N	■	R	S	T	■	M	I	N	I	S
T	H	O	■	E	T	A	■	I	C	O	N	S
O	U	T	■	D	O	W	N	T	U	R	N	S
U	R	I	■	D	O	■	U	T	■	■	■	■
T	A	N	G	■	G	Y	M	■	C	O	Z	Y
■	■	■	U	T	E	■	B	F	C	N	Z	E
C	R	I	F	R	■	■	■	B	C	O	Z	F
D	I	M	S	U	M	■	A	I	L	■	■	■
S	P	O	T	■	E	L	L	■	S	A	F	E
■	■	■	■	T	A	I	L	S	■	R	I	M
T	U	R	N	S	D	O	W	N	■	E	D	C
A	G	A	N	A	■	N	E	A	■	N	E	I
C	H	E	E	R	■	S	T	P	■	A	L	E

Last Friday's Answer 05-07



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexander Ludwig, 26; Sydney Leroux, 28; Breckin Meyer, 44; Amy Heckerling, 64.

Happy Birthday: Be receptive to new ideas and be open to using your skills and attributes in unique ways. You have plenty to gain if you are diligent about reaching your goals and willing to put your energy to good use. Refuse to let personal problems interfere with productivity. Strive for optimum performance; everything else will fall into place. Your numbers are 2, 13, 20, 29, 38, 41, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Ease into change. A conservative approach to whatever you do will help eliminate mistakes. Look for guidance from someone you consider successful and stable. Don't feel the need to make a snap decision based on an emotional whim. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Concentrate on getting ahead. Strive for perfection, and don't be afraid to promote what you have to offer. It's up to you to create new opportunities and to do whatever it takes to outperform any competition you encounter. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Use your attributes. Your flirty ways will draw attention and can help you find out information that will help you become more competitive. Personal improvements can be made that will set you apart and help you stand out. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll have plenty to think about. Don't feel you have to make a financial move or take on a joint venture because someone is pushing you. Take your time; only pitch in when you feel it is worth your while. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Finish what you start. Overloading your plate will lead to an emotional meltdown if you feel pressured or fall short of your goal. Refuse to let an indulgent friend coax you into neglecting your responsibilities. Live up to your promises. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set up a business meeting and share your concerns and intentions. Learn what you can about the people you associate with so you will know how to use what they have to offer to your advantage. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Sidestep any obstacles you face. Not everyone will be happy with the choices you make. Know what you want, and don't be afraid to stand up to someone you feel takes advantage of you. Focus on yourself, your goals and personal gains. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pay more attention to important relationships. Listen and size up situations before you make a decision. If you let your emotions take over or are possessive, you'll have difficulty backtracking. A change of plans can be expected. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look for a positive way to deal with a pending problem or with someone who is difficult to get along with. Your attitude will make a difference in the outcome of a situation concerning a family member. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Consider what makes you happy and strive to make alterations to your life that will help satisfy your needs. Making changes at home that add to your comfort or that bring joy to those you love is a good place to begin. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take a long, hard look at your life and the poor decisions you have made during the years. Consider how best to quit bad habits and get back to a healthy lifestyle. Donate items you no longer use. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* How you help others will make a difference to the way you are treated. Make it clear what you can do and what you expect in return. Don't be misleading or it will result in complaints and criticism. Honesty is required. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, enthusiastic and adamant. You are caring and unpredictable.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8	7	2	3	9	4	5	1	6
9	5	3	6	1	8	4	2	7
1	6	4	5	2	7	3	9	8
6	9	8	1	4	5	7	3	2
3	2	7	8	6	9	1	5	4
4	1	5	7	3	2	8	6	9
7	3	6	9	8	1	2	4	5
5	4	9	2	7	3	6	8	1
2	8	1	4	5	6	9	7	3

Difficulty Level ★ 5/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	9	2	1	4	8	7	5	3
8	1	5	7	3	6	9	4	2
4	3	7	2	5	9	8	1	6
5	4	1	9	8	3	2	6	7
9	7	6	4	2	5	1	3	8
2	8	3	6	7	1	5	9	4
1	6	8	3	9	2	4	7	5
7	5	9	8	6	4	3	2	1
3	2	4	5	1	7	6	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MAYA ANGELOU Solution: 11 letters

A	D	D	S	D	R	A	W	A	E	V	I	T	C	A
N	N	A	T	S	I	R	I	O	M	E	M	M	H	L
A	A	N	B	A	I	L	E	Y	P	U	A	E	A	B
H	L	C	I	T	E	O	P	L	S	R	R	S	R	U
G	K	E	E	E	S	C	A	I	C	O	G	I	C	M
J	A	R	H	T	H	Y	C	H	S	S	U	R	C	A
C	O	M	P	O	S	E	R	O	T	I	E	I	A	L
E	T	H	I	C	S	I	N	I	I	N	R	G	H	C
R	S	N	N	M	H	A	L	D	F	G	I	H	T	O
U	M	P	O	S	I	L	I	A	E	E	T	T	R	L
T	L	V	O	V	O	L	V	T	N	R	E	S	E	M
C	I	T	I	R	E	N	I	I	E	R	S	G	B	X
E	F	V	A	E	G	L	C	R	B	E	U	O	R	S
L	U	A	P	H	W	Y	S	I	B	Y	T	O	N	Y
E	G	A	R	U	O	C	A	L	Y	P	S	O	J	P

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Accra, Active, Album, Annie, Awards, Bailey, Benefits, Bertha, Bess, Calypso, Civil, Composer, Courage, Dancer, Ethics, Films, Ghana, Guy, Henderson, Hero, Johnson, Journalist, Lecture, Malcolm X, March, Marguerite, Memoirist, Movie, Music, Novels, Oakland, Paul, Plays, Poet, Porgy, Rights, Rise, Rita, Singer, Still, Tony, Tosh, View, Vivian, Writer

Last Friday's Answer: The Reason

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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(1) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpentry. Experience in painting, quality control, cost control and safety related to maintenance. Have the ability to kneel, bend, carry, walk, stoop, climb and lift items. A High School diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work evenings / weekends / holidays.

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Kimbrel hits milestone as Red Sox top Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Craig Kimbrel needed only 11 pitches in a perfect ninth to close out Boston's latest victory, and become the quickest pitcher ever to reach 300 career saves.

Kimbrel struck out two for his ninth save in 10 chances this season as the Red Sox won 6-5 at Texas on Saturday night. They had scored the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth, after Joe Kelly struck out the only two batters he faced when the Rangers had the bases loaded in the eighth.

"It feels like forever, and also feels like it's flown by," Kimbrel said. "Eight years ago today, I got called up for the first time. It's neat to be able to get my 300th save on the same day. I've been a part of a lot of great teams. There's a lot of save opportunities, a lot of chances. If it wasn't for that, we wouldn't be talking today."

Kimbrel's 300th save overall came in his 494th career appearance and 330th save opportunity, and about three weeks before his 30th birthday. He had 186 saves for Atlanta from 2010-14, and 39 in his only season for San Diego before 75 since joining the Red Sox in 2016.

His 300 saves came quicker than anyone in terms of appearances, save opportunities and age. Mariano Rivera got his 300th save in his 537th game, Joe Nathan in his 335th save opportunity and Francisco Rodriguez at age 31.

AP

Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Craig Kimbrel throws to a Texas Rangers batter during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, May 5, 2018, in Arlington, Texas. The Red Sox won, 6-5.

Padres 7, Dodgers 4

In Mexico, the San Diego Padres rebounded nicely from Los Angeles' combined no-hitter, using two-run homers by Eric Hosmer and Raffy Lopez to beat the Dodgers in the first major league series in Mexico since 1999.

A day after the first no-hitter ever outside the U.S. or Canada, Travis Jankowski led off the first with a triple for San Diego's first hit of the series. Hosmer then hit a drive over the wall in right against Kenta Maeda.

Diamondbacks 4, Astros 3

In Phoenix, A.J. Pollock singled off the glove of third baseman Alex Bregman with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, helping the Diamondbacks stop their longest skid of the season at three.

Pollock delivered on Brad Peacock's first pitch after Chris Devenski (1-1) had walked the previous two hitters to load the bases.

Cardinals 8, Cubs 6, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Kolten Wong hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning, lifting St. Louis to its fourth straight victory.

The Cardinals trailed 6-4 before Marcell Ozuna hit a two-run double off Brandon Morrow in the ninth.

Phillies 3, Nationals 1

In Washington, Rhys Hoskins hit a two-run homer, Vince Velasquez pitched five effective innings and Philadelphia snapped Washington's six-game win streak.

Velasquez (2-4) allowed one run and one hit in his first win since April 7.

Tigers 3, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Jordan Zimmermann pitched five scoreless innings and Nicholas Castellanos had three extra-base hits, leading Detroit to the win.

Zimmermann (2-0) improved to 4-0 with a 1.48 ERA in seven appearances against the Royals.

Rockies 2, Mets 0

In New York, Chad Bettis pitched seven smooth innings, Nolan Arenado homered early off the big apple at Citi Field, and the Rockies shut down the slumping Mets.

Pinch hitter David Dahl gave the Rockies an insurance run with a two-out RBI single off Robert Gsellman in the ninth.

Brewers 5, Pirates 3

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning, helping Milwaukee to the win.

Braun drove a pitch from George Kontos (2-3) to the center-field wall to score Domingo Santana and Eric Sogard. Braun got a chance to bat after Kontos walked Sogard, batting .105, on four pitches.

Giants 11, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Buster Posey and Andrew McCutchen each had three of San Francisco's 18 hits, leading the Giants to their third straight victory.

Alen Hanson homered and drove in four runs, Gorkys Hernandez had four hits and Brandon Crawford had three hits and two RBI for the Giants.

Marlinjs 6, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Starlin Castro drove in three runs with a homer and a double, backing another strong performance by Miami's Caleb Smith.

Smith (2-3) has been stingy in his last three starts, allowing only two runs and seven hits in 18 2/3 innings with 26 strikeouts.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg, Denard Span drove in his team-leading 24th run to help surging Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

The Rays chased Aaron Sanchez (2-3) in the fourth, taking a 4-1 lead on Span's single and a sacrifice fly by Matt Duffy.

Athletics 2, Orioles 0, 12 innings

In Oakland, Khris Davis homered in the 12th inning, lifting Oakland to the win.

Jed Lowrie singled with one out before Davis drove a 3-1 fastball from Pedro Araujo (1-3) into the bleachers in left. It was Davis' third career game-ending homer.

Twins 8, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Eddie Rosario homered and drove in five runs, Lance Lynn earned his first AL win, and the Twins posted back-to-back victories from the first time since April 12.

Rosario had four hits, including a two-run homer in the third inning and a two-run double in the fourth.

Yankees, 5, Indians 2

In New York, Indians shortstop Francisco Lindor's double error led to a pair of runs in a four-run fifth inning off previously unhittable Trevor Bauer, and the Yankees won for the 14th time in 15 games.

Mayfield: QB competition won't divide Browns

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Baker Mayfield intends to conquer, not divide.

Although drafted by the win-starved Cleveland Browns with the No. 1 overall pick to be their quarterback of the future, Mayfield said Friday he plans to be a leader from the outset even if he doesn't start as a rookie.

Tyrod Taylor is the team's presumptive opening-week starter against Pittsburgh, and while Mayfield intends to compete for the job in training camp, he won't allow personal ambition to get in the way of team goals.

He won't step on any toes.

"It's not about individuals," Mayfield said as the Browns opened their three-day rookie minicamp. "They brought him and I in because we're both team-oriented guys. He's the starter, and all I can do is help us out. So it's not going to be something that separates the locker room. We're not going to be fighting over who's the man in the locker room.

"I'm a team-oriented guy and I just want to win."

Mayfield's leadership and drive were part of the self-assured Oklahoma quarterback's appeal to the Browns, who believe—in time—he can turn around a team that has gone 1-31 the past two seasons.

The plan for now is for Taylor to start and Mayfield to learn while watching a quarterback who led the Buffalo Bills to their first playoff appearance in 18 years last season. The Browns traded for Taylor in March before they reached a consensus on taking Mayfield, who won a Heisman Trophy last season while losing some fans for objectionable on-field antics.

But Mayfield's a pro now, he claims more mature from his mistakes, and he's got a clean slate and a new set of priorities. At the top of his list: earning the trust of his teammates.

To do that, Mayfield intends to be himself, which means he'll go at it full throttle.

"I've got to continue my strengths, and leadership is one of them," he said. "So when you talk about that, it's earning the respect of the veterans in the locker room. The guys who have been doing it for a while, I have to earn their respect. You can't talk about it and earn their respect. You have to go to work. You have to put the time in. You've got to learn the playbook, and then when you get your opportunity, you've got to show that you're there for a reason."

Mayfield said he met Taylor when the QB stopped in while he was in quarterbacks coach Ken Zampese's office. Mayfield has been impressed with Taylor's commitment and openness.

"Everything I've heard, even when I went on my visit at the Bills, they said the same things about him, he's just an unbelievable guy," Mayfield said. "You see that and then you see him up here, how often he's actually here, it's very transparent who he is."

Copa America to feature Japan, Qatar; US out

SAO PAULO (AP)—The 2019 Copa America in Brazil will feature Japan and Qatar and no teams from North America.

The Copa has had guest sides in every tournament since 1993, and Japan and Qatar were invited to make up a 12-nation tournament because of close links between South America body CONMEBOL and the Asian Football Confederation.

Japan played in the 1999 Copa America. Qatar, which will make its Copa debut, is the host of the 2022 World Cup.

CONMEBOL initially considered a 16-team competition that could include Spain and Portugal. It also hoped for frequent invitees Mexico and the United States but they are playing the Copa Oro instead.

Brazil was supposed to host the 2015 Copa but swapped its organization rights with Chile, which won the trophy that year.

Brazil's Copa America organizing committee is still working on host stadia.

The next Copa America is expected to be the last before it switches to the same year as UEFA's European Championship.

The 2019 Copa America will be played from June 14 to July 7.

James banks in game-winner, Cavs near sweep

CLEVELAND (AP)—The moment required brilliance. LeBron James delivered again.

James banked in a running one-hander at the buzzer, giving the Cleveland Cavaliers a 105-103 win over Toronto on Saturday night in Game 3 and shoving the Raptors to the edge of their most devastating playoff exit.

After the Raptors tied it on rookie OG Anunoby's 3-pointer with eight seconds left, James took the inbounds pass, dribbled the length of the court and rose off the floor on the left side of the basket just feet from Toronto's bench.

Glass. Bucket. Bedlam.

"Tie game, down one," James said. "I live for those moments."

As the noise level in Quicken Loans Arena rose to jet-engine levels, the Cavs sprinted from the other end of the court and mobbed James. After some tight hugs, he was back atop the scorer's table —just like he did after a last-second 3-pointer to win Game 5 against Indiana -- and celebrated a win that was up for grabs.

"I've been doing that since I was like six, seven, eight years old," James said. "Maybe even before that. There's a picture floating around of me beside a Little Tikes hoop with a saggy Pamper on and I was doing it back then and all the way up until now, at 33.

"Things that you dream about, that you get those opportunities and I've been fortunate enough to get a handful of those in some of the biggest moments in my career."

James finished with 38 points, Kevin Love added 21 and 16 rebounds and Kyle Korver scored 18 for the Cavs, who have won nine straight postseason games over the Raptors and may sweep them for the second straight year.

The difference in the two teams is simple: One has James, the other doesn't.

"I ran out of words a while ago," said Korver, struggling to describe James' latest heroics. "I've seen him shoot that shot, that game-winner, countless times when he's messing around in shootaround and practice. It's always like, why would he shoot a shot like that -- to win a playoff game?

"Unbelievable play. He did it again. He's been so huge in those moments for us all year."

It was the fifth career postseason buzzer-beater for James, the second of these playoffs, and this one had maybe the highest degree of difficulty of them all.

"It is very difficult," James said, smiling. "Don't try it at home."

Kyle Lowry scored 27 for Toronto, which played much more physically and clawed back in the fourth quarter while All-Star DeMar DeRozan was on the bench. DeRozan, despondent at not being able to do more or help when it mattered most, went just 3 of 12 from the field and scored eight points.

"It was extremely hard, extremely hard," DeRozan said of being benched by coach Dwane Casey in the fourth. "I never want to be over there watching. It definitely sucks to watch it. It was just one of those nights for me, personally. I kept thinking, as long as we win, it cures everything."

Casey wanted to trap James on the final play, but he went by defenders at "100 miles per hour."

Lowry knew James would take the ball up the left side, and once he pulled up there wasn't much that could be done.

"Maybe we could have doubled him or made him go right," Lowry said. "You know he's going left and he made a tough shot."

After winning the series' first two games in Canada, the Cavs came home and won a brawl with the Raptors, who just can't beat James. He's 11-2 against Toronto in the past three postseasons.

The three-time champion has ended the Raptors' past two seasons, and despite playing with a different supporting cast, James is one win from a Toronto trifecta.

We The North? He The North.

Game 4 is Monday night, and the odds are stacked against the rattled Raptors. Of the 129 teams in NBA history to fall behind 3-0, none has come back to win.

"Fight," Lowry said when asked what's next. "Rumble. What else are you gonna do?"

Celtics 101, 76ers 98

In Philadelphia, Al Horford had no use for the premature celebration that showered confetti all over the 76ers' home court at the end of regulation, delaying overtime and prompting an impromptu cleanup job.

Turns out, Horford has the Celtics just a game away from a real sweep.

Horford scored the go-ahead basket for Boston late in overtime in a wild Game 3 where the Philadelphia 76ers were sloppy with the basketball and the confetti, leading the Celtics to a 101-98 victory and a 3-0 series lead on Saturday night.

"These are the kind of moments you want to be in as a basketball player," Horford said.

He saw some wild ones down the stretch.

Marco Belinelli had hit a buzzer-beater to end the fourth quarter that sent the Sixers into a wild celebration on the court as confetti shot out of a cannon that made it rain over chunks of the arena.

Hold up.

Game 3 was only headed into OT.

"I wanted to play right away," Horford said. "I didn't care about the confetti."

The tale of the (ticker) tape shows the Celtics are still the team to beat.

The Celtics, who rallied from a 22-point deficit to beat the 76ers 108-103 in Game 2, can advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight season on Monday.

The ending to regulation was about as wild as it gets for both teams. JJ Redick threw away the basketball on an errant pass to no one that was scooped by Terry Rozier who threw to Jaylen Brown for the basket and an 89-87 lead.

Seconds later, Belinelli stunned everyone with a falling 22-footer in front of the 76ers bench as time expired that sent the game into overtime—and confetti mistakenly blasted from the cannon. There was about a seven-minute delay while team employees scrambled to clean up the mess on the court. Some players even scooped up confetti as everyone waited for the start of overtime.

Confetti Guy—wearing a "Breaking News: I Don't Care" T-shirt—pushed the button too early and the rectangular pieces were soaring everywhere.

Confetti Guy—who declined to give his name—came over to press row and said the Sixers "better win or I'm done."

They didn't.

Belinelli opened OT with a 23-footer and Redick followed with a 3 that appeared to take him off the hook.

But the Celtics wouldn't let them pull away and Horford escaped for a layup with 5.5 seconds that gave Boston a 99-98 lead. Ben Simmons then threw the ball away after a timeout and Horford sealed the win with two free throws.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) hits the game-winning shot as Toronto Raptors' OG Anunoby (3) and CJ Miles (0) watch during the second half of Game 3 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Saturday, May 5, 2018, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers defeated the Raptors, 105-103.

Rondo, Green serve up spicy subplot in playoffs

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Rajon Rondo and Draymond Green have won NBA titles and never have been known to shy away from conflict on the court.

Now their combustible convergence in the playoffs is providing a spicy subplot to the Western Conference semifinal series between New Orleans and Golden State.

"We're here to fight," Rondo said following New Orleans' lopsided Game 3 victory that trimmed the Warriors' series lead to 2-1. "With my guys on the court, I'm going to fight as hard as I can ... and do whatever it takes."

Green and Rondo had to be separated after whistles twice in the first three games -- never mind some other antics in the flow of the game -- and they'll be back at it again in one of two pivotal Game 4s to be played on Sunday. The other pits Houston against Utah in a series that the Rockets lead 2-1.

The Rondo-Green sideshow is compelling because of what both players mean to their teams. They are not the type of trash-talking, loudmouths who otherwise play marginal roles. They are accomplished leaders who produce. Rondo had 21 assists in Game 3, while Green nearly had a triple-double with 11 points, 12 rebounds and nine assist. It just so happens they also are renowned for their masterful command of psychological gamesmanship.

Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry might have the best perspective; he's coached them both.

Gentry was a Warriors assistant on Golden State's 2015 championship team and maintains a friendly off-court relationship with Green.

"If he's on your team you love him and if he's not on your team you despise him—and to me, those are the kind of players that I like to have," Gentry said of Green. "I appreciate who he is and how he plays because he's all about winning. And if you're verbally weak, he's going to take advantage of that."

Warriors coach Steve Kerr calls Green his team's "heart and soul," and its "engine." Kerr also added lightheartedly that the fact Green hasn't been assessed a technical foul in the postseason is "one of the great stats in this year's playoffs."

Green bristled at the notion that he started any of the dustups with Rondo, insinuating that Rondo was the instigator. He asserted that his awareness of Rondo's intentions is why he hasn't been suckered into escalations that could result in a technical foul or ejection.

"I'm not an idiot," Green said. "I can see what they're trying to accomplish a mile away."

Green added: "At some point, somebody's got to tell the truth. It ain't Draymond this time."

IT&E badminton tournament starts Friday

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Badminton action returns this Friday at the TSL Sports Complex with the Northern Marianas Badminton Association's first major tournament in more than a year. The competition is sponsored by IT&E.

The 2018 IT&E Badminton Tournament will be held for two weekends, starting from May 11 to 13 and culminating from May 18 to 20. Competitions will be in singles, and men's, women's, and mixed doubles both in the men's and women's divisions.

The registration fee is $10 for single entry and $5 for each additional category. The deadline for submission of entries is on May 9, Wednesday. NMBA is requiring that all registration and membership fees must be paid in order to qualify and play in the tournament.

Registration can be submitted to NMBA secretary general Christy Villaflor at christy_villaflor@saipansoccerschool.org.

This weekend's competition is NMBA's second for 2018, as it hosted a short tournament in February with seven pairs emerging as champions. Ichiro Borja, Windy Fernandez, and Irish Pagarao led the list of winners after they each won two division titles in the TanHoldings-sponsored tournament.

The NMBA, early this year, has elected a new set of officers and they plan to renew interest in the sport and continue its youth development program, as the 2021 Pacific Mini Games that Saipan will be hosting nears.

Merlie Tolentino was elected president along with Chris Hilario (first vice president), Tommy Kim (second vice president), Shirley Kim (treasurer), and board members Jaja Samonte, Elna Curate, Hannah Choi, Lani Santos, and Patrick Fernandez.

Woods: I'm getting close to putting it all together, winning

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Tiger Woods said he's on the verge of putting it all together and winning his first PGA tournament in five years— if he can just start rolling the ball a little better on the greens.

The 42-year-old Woods made some significant progress in that area Saturday shooting a 3-under 68, but he was nine strokes behind leader Jason Day entering the final round of the Wells Fargo Championship and all but out of contention.

Woods' sixth straight third round of par of better was promising, but it wasn't good enough to make up a lot of ground— and certainly not as bold as the moves from Phil Mickelson (64) or Rory McIlroy (66). All three were tied at 2 over to start the day.

"I'm close," said Woods. "I'm hitting the ball well enough to contend, to win this golf tournament, but I just haven't made putts."

Woods sensed after his round that others would go low, leaving him too far behind to catch them on Sunday.

"I feel like I'm hitting the ball well enough and just trending in the right direction for next week," said Woods, who has won 79 career PGA Tour events and 105 professional tournaments overall.

The greens at Quail Hollow have perplexed Woods all week.

In his mind, the pace of the greens is faster than they really are. That forced Woods to make changes to his stroke Saturday.

AP

Tiger Woods reacts to missing a putt on the fourth hole during the third round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, May 5, 2018.

"I made it a little more handsy, kind of like how we used to putt when greens were so slow on public courses," Woods said. "So I put a little more hit into my stroke, put a little more load, a little more hit and it worked out good, I hit some good putts. Also left a few out there, too."

Woods was one of several golfers who began the third round at 2 over par, but he took advantage of playing in the morning under overcast skies and an easier course setup than the previous two rounds.

Mickelson had his lowest round of the season. McIlroy three-putted the 18th and still shot 5 under.

"There was a little bit more moisture on the greens so you could give them a little more pace and not have them run six or eight feet by," said Mickelson, who said he never knew a round of 7 under was possible when he teed off.

"The course was easier— maybe not quite 10 shots easier, but it was a few shots easier," said McIlroy, who shot a 76 on Friday.

And as well as those star players performed, they couldn't match Peter Uihlein, who shot 62 after a six-hole stretch that included five birdies and an eagle.

It was the best round at Quail Hollow since McIlroy's 61 in the 2015 Wells Fargo Championship in which he crushed the field. McIlroy's score came before a course change at Quail Hollow, when par was 72.

"My 61 was better," McIlroy said with a laugh. "... It's a different course. I mean, 9 under around this place is pretty good."

Uihlein, who is seeking his first PGA Tour win, didn't have much time to celebrate before being taken to be randomly drug tested.

"It's totally ironic," Uihlein said. "First low round of the year, I feel like, and I have to go (urinate) in a cup."

STEELE

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and Park placed second as they slipped past Tan and Lee, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, yesterday.

In the men's 3.0 doubles, Tababa and Keller won the all-Pacific Islands Club Saipan staff finale, as they outclassed tournament director Keoni Ichihara and Reymark Castro, 6-4, 4-6 7-5.

Meanwhile, Ichihara would like to thank the following for supporting this year's competition: Kensington Hotel, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Pacific Trading Company, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Resort and Spa, Saipan Vegas, Triple J Wholesale, Bridge Capital LLC, and PIC Saipan.

BRAVES

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cluding the Yankees' first three batters at the top of the second inning. The Yankees got their lone run in the game off a passed ball at the top of the first inning.

Besides Camacho, six other players on the Braves top of the order batted two times and reached home twice at the bottom of the second inning.

After opening a big lead at the end of the second inning, the Braves went on to finish the match, which had a one-hour limit, at the top of the third, as the Yankees were called for two quick outs. Camacho fanned the Yankees leadoff batter and then caught the grounder of the second one. The Braves pitcher walked the Yankees third batter, who managed to move to second off a passed ball, but was left stranded when fourth batter Matthew Tomokane was tagged out on a 4-3 play.

The Braves' semis win over the Yankees came after the former closed out the regular season with an 8-5 triumph over the Cubs last Saturday.

The Braves banked on their eight runs at the bottom of the first inning to withstand the Cubs' rally in the second. The first finalists got five runs off the Cubs' errors, two from wild pitches, and one off a passed ball.

A solo homer from leadoff batter Rosie Saralu at the top of the second inning sparked the Cubs comeback, as the team's next three batters reached off the Braves wild pitches before Herman Iguel halted the run by getting three straight strikeouts. The Cubs then added one more run at the top of the third with Saralu scoring off the Braves error with two outs. However, that was it for the Cubs, as Iguel struck out Abraham Saralu in the next play.

Meanwhile, in the second semis game, Marlins catcher Santiago Sablan hit an RBI triple and reached home on a passed ball at the top of the second inning to help his team slip past the Cubs.

The Marlins were ahead by only one, 2-1, after one complete inning when Sablan drove in Jake Faisao with his triple and then made it home for the squad's fourth run and 6-1 advantage in that period. David Apatang and Audie Iakopo registered the Marlins' two other runs off the Cubs' errors. Austin Camacho added one more run off the Cubs catcher's booboo in the third inning to give the Marlins enough cushion, going into the bottom of the third.

The Cubs, who had one run each in the first and second inning, were also held to one in the last inning, courtesy of second batter Abraham Saralu. Leadoff batter Paul Lizama went down on a 1-3 putout play, while Robert Manglona was struck out, and Rosie Saralu, who tripled, was tagged out as she attempted to steal home.

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hurried shot and missed. The 670 Sonics got the rebound and Tony Kim was fouled as he tried to cross the half court line. The NMI Rollers were not yet in the penalty, forcing the 670 Sonics to go for the inbound, which the latter did after calling a timeout with a little over 20 minutes remaining on the clock.

When the game resumed, Francisco took the inbound pass and drove to the middle, but was partially blocked by a NMI Rollers defender. Fortunately for the 670 Sonics, Kim got the rebound, went up for the shot in the paint, and was fouled. His first free throw, however, was way too strong, so he made the adjustment and the second one hit nothing but the net, giving the 670 Sonics a shaky 42-41 lead.

Now behind, the NMI Rollers used their last timeout and when the game resumed they tried to catch the 670 Sonics' defense off guard with the inbound passer throwing a cross lob to Ervin Villarin, whose shot was nullified, as the referee has not called the resumption of the match yet. When it was time to restart the game, the NMI Rollers ran a similar play for Villarin, who made the attempt at the same spot, missed the shot, but was fouled.

Villarin went on to muff both charities, while the 670 Sonics cleared the board and Francisco was fouled as he tried to bring the ball down to their frontcourt. Francisco then split his charity, drilling his second free throw to hand the 670 Sonics the 2-point advantage, 43-41.

After Francisco's second shot from the stripe and with the clock ticking, the NMI Rollers were pressed for a quick inbound and after only a couple of passes, the leather was handed over to Villarin, who pulled the trigger inside the foul line, but again faltered on his attempt. There was a battle for the rebound after the miss and the ball touched an NMI Rollers player first before going out, giving the possession to the 670 Sonics.

The eventual champions then dribbled out the last five seconds of the clock, avoiding contact with NMI Rollers to win the closely fought finale.

Kim top-scored for the 670 Sonics with his 17 points, while Francisco, who was named regular season and Finals MVP, added 9 points. The 670 Sonics guard dropped 7 markers in the second half with his field goals keeping his team in front, as he teamed up with Kim in delivering clutch baskets for their squad.

Kim posted the 670 Sonics' first 6 points and drew some help from his teammates in the remaining minutes of the first half for their 7-point edge at the break. Then in the second half, it was the NMI Rollers' turn to spread the wealth to get back into the game, but they could not complete the recovery as they muffed important shots in the end.

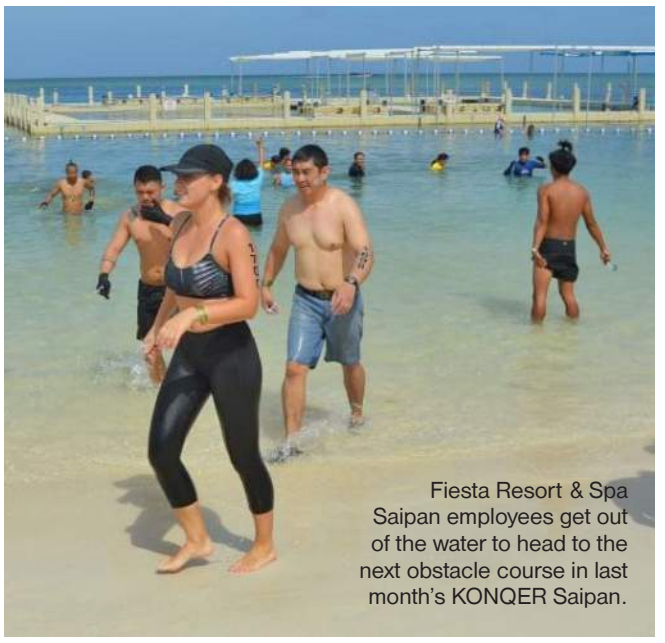
670 Sonics 43 — Kim 17, Francisco 9, Carlos 5, Junior 3, Caruana 3, Rizo 2, Bernardo 2, Aldan 2.

NMI Rollers 41 — Pangelinan 17, Villarin 8, G. Castro 4, Morilla 4, E. Castro 3, Factor 3, Kapwich 1, Cruz 1.

Scoring by halves: 27-20, 43-41.

Fiesta Resort Employees at KONQER Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan employees get out of the water to head to the next obstacle course in last month's KONQER Saipan.

Fiesta Resort employees crawl along the sand.

Fiesta Resort employees help each other climb a wall.

Fiesta Resort employees take on the side to side obstacle course.

Fiesta Resort employees help each other climb a wall.

Fiesta Resort employees try to stay together as they move into the next stage of the course.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring takes footages of Fiesta Resort employees negotiating one of the obstacle courses.

Fiesta Resort employees slide en route to completing the race.

Kimbrel hits milestone as Red Sox top Rangers

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Sports

James banks in game-winner, Cavs near sweep

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Braves vs Marlins in Minor title match

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The stage is set for the finals showdown between the NSA Braves and Kagman Marlins following their semis victories in the Minor division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The No. 1 seed Braves lived up to high expectations and took the first finals seat after crushing the Northern Yankees, 16-1, while the Marlins prevailed against the Cubs in the other semis pairing, 7-3. The Marlins-Braves finale will be played this Saturday.

A 15-run bottom of the second inning allowed the Braves to ease past the Yankees in the first semis game. Pitcher Javen Camacho highlighted the Braves' surge in the pivotal inning with a solo homer in his first at bat in that stage of the one-sided game. He then blasted a two-run triple in his second trip at the plate and scored twice in the second inning, making up for his failure to reach home at the bottom of the first. Camacho advanced off the Yankees error in the first inning and then stole second and third base, but was stranded there after Jacob Babauta was struck out.

The Braves pitcher also threw a no-hitter in the three innings he worked the mound, giving up no earned run and striking out six, in-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The NSA Braves pitcher, right, goes for a catch, while a Cubs runner slides home during their game in the Minor division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

670 Sonics survive Rollers in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics knocked in important free throws in the homestretch to squeeze out a 43-41 victory over the RT Law NMI Rollers in their boys U15 title game in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tony Kim and Raven Francisco split their free throws in the closing seconds of the match to lift the 670 Sonics to the finals win that not only handed their team the championship, but also gave the group a perfect record this season. The 670 Sonics were undefeated in eight games, prevailing in six matches in the elimination round and winning over Bruce Almighty in the semis before pulling off victory against the NMI Rollers in the title duel.

The finals went down to the-wire in the end, as the NMI Rollers worked their way back into the game after falling behind by 7 at the break, 20-27. The match was tied for the last time at the 41-41 tally after Devon Pangelinan made a point-blank shot and drew a foul against his defender with less than a minute left in the game. Pangelinan failed to complete the and-1 play although his bonus free throw bounced back into the basket, as he was caught stepping on the 15-foot line.

With the infraction, the 670 Sonics got the possession, but committed an errant pass, returning the ball to the NMI Rollers, which then took a

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics' Tony Kim, left, is fouled by the RT Law NMI Rollers' Eli Castro during the first half of their title game in the boys U15 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Steele, Gregoire lead doubles winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Richard Steele and Maria Gregoire's partnership produced another title, as they ruled the mixed 3.0 doubles event in the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan hard courts.

The two junior players, who won the mixed 4.0 doubles crown in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic, got their second doubles title after sweeping Chiharo and Kosuke Sato in the finals, 6-2, 6-2. The eventual champions also needed only two sets to beat Danny Lee and Helen Kim, 6-0, 6-1, in the semifinals. In the other Final Four pairing, the Satos outclassed Randy Steele and Ami Miyawaki, 6-1, 6-3, to book the second finals ticket.

In other results, Jeff Race and Isabel Heras, Malika Miyawaki and Coume Kaga, and Dennis Tababa and June Keller completed the doubles champions list in last weekend's competition.

Kaga and Miyawaki prevailed in the round-robin women's open doubles event after earning a 2-0 record. The duo won via walkover against Chizuka and Reika Nakaya and then defeated the mother-and-daughter tandem of Lydia and Tania Tan yesterday, 6-2, 6-1, to top the division. The Tans earlier swept the Nakayas, 6-0, 6-1, to settle for the runner-up honors.

In the mixed open doubles, Race and Heras also posted a 2-0 mark to clinch the division championship. The winning pair first downed Miyawaki and Seung Jin Paik, 6-2, 6-1, in the morning match last Saturday, and then also swept Tania Tan and Sean Lee in the afternoon, 6-0, 6-1, to rule the round-robin contest. Miyawaki

See STEELE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Richard Steele returns a shot to Seung Jin Paik during their game in the opening week of the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.